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# THE TIMES

William Rees-Mogg:  
Who is afraid of  
Mr Reagan? Page 12

## Ps vote for boycott of Olympics by majority of 168

Government scored a morale-boosting victory in the Commons when its motion calling for a boycott of the Moscow Games was supported by 168 to 147, a majority of 168.

An Opposition motion which, in effect, urged that British athletes be allowed to make up their own minds about going to Moscow, was defeated by 305 votes to 188, a Government majority of 117.

## Morale boost for Government

By Correspondent

A vote of 168 to 147 in the Commons on a motion to boycott the Moscow Olympics was a morale-boosting victory for the Government. The motion, which called for a boycott of the Games, was supported by 168 to 147, a majority of 168.

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## Other nations consider other games

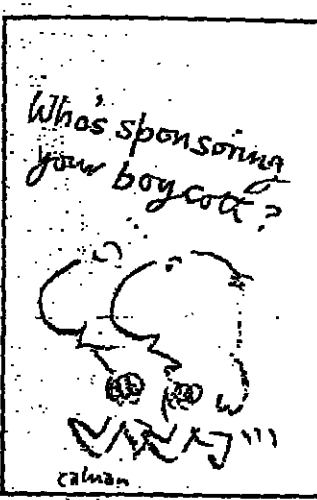
By Correspondent

On whose initiative the two-day meeting here is being held, the other countries participating are Sudan, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, Kenya, Dominican Republic, Canada, and the Philippines. Costa Rica and Portugal are attending as observers.

Mr Hurd said they believed that as sports organizations in different countries realized to what extent the Moscow Games would be marred by the absence of the Americans and other leading sporting nations they were "beginning to think in terms of other plans."

"Our aim is to help them in that consideration if that is the way their thoughts turn," he added. "As it is, however, it is increasingly recognized that the absence of certain countries from Moscow will lower the quality of competition there we think that sport by sport it may not be all sports—there will increasingly be interest in other kinds of competition."

"Anyway, we think we owe it to athletes and sporting organizations to give them the chance by suggesting and facilitating. If they turn their backs on this whole approach then we have tried."



Who's sponsoring your boycott?

There was no further information from Sir Ian about agreement, or even lack of it, with our partners over what the response should be to the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

The only new development was a move back-pedalling over the announcement that no extra leave would be given to allow athletes in government service to take part in the Moscow Games. Sir Ian told the House there would be no additional paid leave allowed and that whether any government employees took unpaid leave would depend on the requirements of their job.

The Soviet Union, said Sir Ian, saw the games as a propaganda exercise from which they could derive great advantage. The Government believed that non-participation offered Western countries the single most effective way of bringing home to the Soviet regime and the Russian people our refusal to accept their occupation of Afghanistan.

The numerous amendments to the Government motion on both sides of the House, agreeing only in their call for Soviet withdrawal and condemnation of the invasion, indicated the wide range of views; but perhaps the most startling divergence was that some members would not recommend a British boycott. What had started as a reasonable and widely shared objective, Mr Shore concluded, had been turned by incoherence and misdirection into a source of serious division.

Parliamentary report, page 5

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gence from the official line came from Mr Shore, Opposition spokesman on Foreign Affairs, who opened the debate with a speech indicating that he would have been happier supporting the Government's boycott.

For the world community to send their athletes to Moscow now would be interpreted by the Soviet people, or interpreted for them by the international acceptance and approval of the Soviet Union and its policies, Mr Shore said.

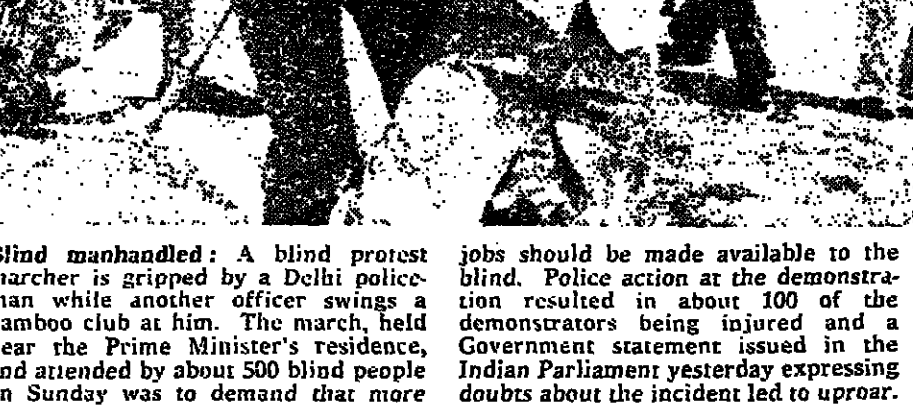
He found repugnant the image of British athletes at the opening and final ceremonies or whenever British success was secured, parading with the flag and anthem and paying collective response to the leaders of the Soviet Union.

It certainly sounded much stronger stuff than anything produced by Sir Ian. Mr Shore's words brought an instant horrified response from Mr Eric Heffer, Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton.

Was the party's spokesman telling the House that if all the Western countries agreed, then Britain ought to stay away from Moscow? That, Mr Heffer said, was contrary to a widely held view on the Labour benches and in the mass of the Labour movement.

Mr Shore accepted that there were different views but pointed out that there was a free vote. He was giving his personal view. But he went on to condemn the Government for not having correctly followed up the Prime Minister's first statement on January 17. There was no consultation with the House of Commons Committee and nothing was done effectively to win support either abroad or at home. The House, he added, had heard nothing about alternative sites or about agreement with other principal allies.

In such circumstances he would not recommend a British boycott. What had started as a reasonable and widely shared objective, Mr Shore concluded, had been turned by incoherence and misdirection into a source of serious division.



Blind manhandled: A blind protest marcher is gripped by a Delhi policeman while another officer swings a bamboo club at him. The march, held near the Prime Minister's residence, and attended by about 500 blind people on Sunday was to demand that more jobs should be made available to the blind.

Police action at the demonstration resulted in about 100 of the demonstrators being injured and a Government statement issued in the Indian Parliament yesterday expressing doubts about the incident led to uproar.

Angry Opposition MPs walked out of both Houses and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, told the Lower House she was sorry about the brutality. She has appointed a judge to lead an inquiry and submit his findings within three weeks.

## Dollar soars in response to Carter package

By Caroline Atkinson

Currency markets throughout Europe and the Far East gave a resounding welcome yesterday to President Carter's anti-inflation measures. The dollar soared against all major currencies and pushed the gold price down 551. Money poured into America as speculators chased the still higher interest rates expected to result from the new measures.

However, reaction was not so enthusiastic in America. Wall Street prices fell, and some business economists complained that the Carter package was too weak. The dollar lost some of its European gains when markets opened in New York. The pound held up extremely well against other currencies. After falling by nearly 5 cents

against the dollar at one point, it recovered to close in London at \$2.1850, down 2.95 cents from Friday. In trade weighted terms a strong rise yesterday against West German and other European currencies left sterling down overall by only 0.1 pence, at 72.2 percent of its end 1971 value.

The dollar has now gone out of gold. Yesterday's fall of 551 an ounce took it to its lowest level since before Christmas. At \$479 in the London close, gold was only a little more than half the peak price it touched in late January.

It has fallen sharply in the past few days in reaction to the rising dollar. Investors have been keen to leave their money in gold, earning no interest, when

they can get such high returns on dollars. The usually strong Deutsche mark and Swiss franc both dropped by more than 2 percent against the dollar. The yen closed at 249.4 to the dollar, after going briefly above the crucial 250 level at one stage.

Higher interest rates throughout the world are likely as a result of the American measures. Progressive tightening of the United States money policy over the past month has pushed up the cost of money in Europe and Japan as governments have tried to stop their currencies from falling.

Eurodollar rates soared to nearly 20 per cent yesterday afternoon, and further prime rate rises are expected to be announced in New York this week. Wall Street down 23 points, page 17.

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## Court orders British Rail to deliver 500 tons of steel blacked by union

By Nicholas Timmins

British Rail was last night planning to deliver about 500 tons of steel to a West Midlands stockholder today after the High Court ruled that it must be handed over to its owners, Howard P. Perry and Co Ltd.

The steel, worth £96,000, has been blacked by members of the National Union of Railwaymen, at depots in Wolverhampton and Brighly Hill, in support of the steel strike.

Mr Jack Lawman, West Midlands district secretary of the NUR, said yesterday his members would comply with the court order. "I have instructed our members to start delivering the steel to Perry's tomorrow. What the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation do about it is another matter."

The steel union promptly promised that picketing of the stockholding firm would be stepped up. "We will do all in our power within the law to circumvent that steel moving", Mr Michael Leahy, district organizer with the ISTC said.

A spokesman for British Rail in the West Midlands admitted that there were several other consignments of steel, amounting to many hundreds of tons, tied up at railheads by the NUR's action. But no decision had yet been taken on whether these should also be delivered.

If there was a request for delivery, certainly we would give consideration."

Mr Richard Rawlin, executive director of the National Association of Steel Stockholders, said: "We will be examining the court's ruling very closely in the next few days. There was not a large amount of steel at railheads, but if the ruling could be taken as a precedent for steel blacked at

ports it could have considerable significance. In his ruling, the judge, Vice-Chancellor Sir Robert Megarry, said Perry's were being denied ownership of the steel, including the right of possession of it, for an indefinite period.

"All concerned may take a practical view of the matter and think that, as only some 500 tons of steel is involved, and there appears to be small prospect of it being replaced, there would be little point in mounting industrial action over what may be regarded as a one-off job," he said.

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## BL will impose pay deal on 85,000 workers

By Correspondent

BL is to impose its pay and productivity offer on 85,000 car workers. After eight hours, talks with union leaders broke down. The company requires that it could improve the offer, first made five months ago, of 5 to 10 per cent pay increases according to grade, with bonuses up to £15 a week for sweeping changes in working practices. Union leaders hinted that if the deal was forced through there would be spontaneous shop-floor disruption.

The value of British exports went over £4,000m for the first time and the deficit on trade in goods fell to £226m in February from £321m in January. The improvement was widespread among leading commodity groups, but despite considerable gains from North Sea oil it still looks as though there will be a deficit of about £2,000m during 1980.

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## Arts Council's £70m

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## Envoy's window exit

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## Blizzards and ice affect many roads

On the second day of British Summer Time, blizzards and up to 8in of snow affected many parts of the country and motorists faced hazardous conditions in wide areas of the North. Police in mid-Wales gave a warning of frozen snow on high ground and in Lancashire gritting machines were used to keep traffic moving on the M61.

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## Schild talks 'critical'

Negotiations between Mr Rolf Schild, the British businessman, and kidnappers holding his daughter, Annabel, in Sardinia have reached a critical stage, his solicitor said in London. The British Vice-Consul in Cagliari said that Mrs Daphne Schild, whose release eight weeks ago was announced by the Pope on Sunday, was uninjured but very distressed.

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## £300,000 for heart team

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## Gallantry medal for Gurkha hero

A Gurkha soldier who overpowered and arrested eight attackers single-handedly at Buckingham Palace today to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal. Lance Corporal Aimsing Limbu is the first member of the Brigade of Gurkhas to receive the award. He was on border patrol in Hongkong when desperate illegal immigrants from China attacked him. But the attackers reckoned without his fighting spirit.

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## HOME NEWS

## BL's management planning to act unilaterally and impose pay offer after talks with unions fail

By Donald Macintyre  
Labour Reporter

The British Leyland management will decide in the next day or two how to go over the heads of union negotiators and impose their pay and productivity offer on the company's 85,000 car workers.

The company made clear last night that it intends to act unilaterally after talks with union leaders, which provided the last real chance of settlement, broke down after eight hours.

The company remained adamant after the talks that there was no more money to improve its five-month-old offer of basic increases of 5 or 10 per cent dependent on grades and the opportunity for bonus earnings of up to £15 a week in exchange for widespread changes in working practices.

The company is gambling that the move, which may involve each worker affected by changes in practices being asked to agree individually to alterations in his contract of employment, will be acceptable to workers who last year overwhelmingly endorsed Sir Michael Edwards' recovery plan.

Union leaders, while stopping

well short of calling for official industrial action, hinted that there could be spontaneous disruption on the shop floor. Mr Grenville Hawley, the Transport and General Workers' Union national automotive secretary, said last night: "Any imposition of the deal would cause a reaction from the membership."

In response to the offer, which was rejected by about six to four in a ballot of employees, the unions yesterday proposed a 10 per cent increase across the board and urged that the company's wide-ranging productivity document then be put to workers plant by plant for further negotiations.

Rejecting that Mr Raymond Horwicks, managing director of BL Cars, said the company's financial position, illustrated by the 1979 loss of £122m, left it no room for manoeuvre. Changes in working practices were essential to the success of Leyland's recovery and new model programme.

Collaboration plans: BL is discussing collaborative projects with seven or eight other companies in America and Europe, Sir Michael Edwards said at a Parliamentary Press Gallery

lunch in Westminster yesterday (Our Parliamentary Staff writes).

Sir Michael said that BL had been having the discussions for 12 months.

"Some discussions came to nought because they wanted to export unemployment from France and elsewhere",

At the end of the lunch he told a former Labour minister three times that what the latter had said was rubbish.

Then Mr Leslie Hunkfield, Labour MP for Nuneaton and a former Under-Secretary for Industry, put a question, prefacing it with a number of premises: that the Honda deal had been 90 per cent Japanese ("Rubbish", Sir Michael said); that there was not yet a replacement Jaguar or Rover (another "Rubbish"); and that the new "powertrain" would be Japanese. That drew another "Rubbish" from Sir Michael.

"Get your facts right", Sir Michael urged in his reply. When he had spoken of collaboration with other companies, he had been referring to Europe and America not Japan. A new Jaguar generation was highly developed.



The Queen shaking hands with Dustin Hoffman at last night's Royal Film Performance at the Odeon theatre, Leicester Square. Next to him are Meryl Streep and Justin Henry, aged eight, who have leading roles in the film, "Kramer vs Kramer".

## The miner is Scarier than the miner

Mr Arthur Scarth

day called for a day of coalface action.

In his presidential address to the annual meeting of the National Coal Board, Mr Scarth said that the industry's management and the industry's workers should share the same facility.

The introduction of a day week would cost an additional £50,000 and provided the amount of work it would stop being done by the industry.

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## NUR wants strike on May 14

By Our Labour Staff

TUC leaders will be urged next week by the biggest rail union to turn the planned May 14 day of action against Government policies into a 24-hour general strike.

The National Union of Railwaymen is asking the TUC General Council to advise all affiliated unions to withdraw labour on that day.

The NUR executive met yesterday and afterwards Mr Sidney Weighell, the union's general secretary, promised that the union's 180,000 members would abide by the call if it was approved.

Referring to the TUC rally nine days ago, Mr Weighell said: "The feeling of my executive is that it is not sufficient to wave banners in Trafalgar Square. The Government appear not to be listening to us, and so the way to influence them is to stop Britain for 24 hours."

If the council did not support the NUR resolution, the union's executive would have to consider what action its members would then take, he said.

Mr Weighell was speaking about the performance of the Prime Minister, saying: "If she continues to run the country like she would a grocer's shop in Grantham, we are heading for disaster."

## Union chiefs avoid defeat on post plan

By David Felton

Boston union leaders yesterday narrowly avoided a rank-and-file defeat on a productivity plan that could see the introduction of casual workers into the Post Office during the summer.

Delegates to a special conference of the Union of Post Office Workers in Bournemouth voted by a majority of 615 against a call supported by many branches to reject a pay and conditions package which has the backing of the union's executive.

The two-day conference is being held in advance of pay negotiations due to start in earnest on Thursday. Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the union, said that tough negotiations were ahead. He added that the union's 20 per cent claim had to be set against the 11 per cent included in the Post Office's budget next year for pay increases.

The conference was called to discuss the productivity plan, which the Post Office hopes will make its business more efficient and enable it to avoid a repetition of last summer, when people were asked to stop posting letters.

The plan envisages the employment of casual workers, mainly students, for 12 weeks this summer.

## Sir Charles insists on right to ballot workers

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor  
Union attitudes adopted by steelworkers' leaders towards a membership ballot on the British Steel Corporation's pay offer were attacked yesterday by Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman.

He made clear that the BSC would go ahead with its ballot of the workers if the unions decided against holding one, as the corporation would prefer.

Referring to comments made by Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, the BSC chairman said ballots had been held for more than 100 years. They are going back to the Duke of Wellington, who opposed the Reform Bill, he added.

In an interview with The Times Sir Charles said: "We

are not committed to holding a second ballot, and will do so only if it is in the interests of the workers and the business. We are reluctant heroes."

But the workforce said quite clearly in the first ballot that they wanted to be heard. If the unions will not ballot themselves, or go to arbitration, then we will have to ballot."

Further "extension" of the strike would make very much harder the corporation's task of regaining the business it had already lost. The strike has been costing the corporation between £10m and £11m a week on top of weekly losses of £7m before the strike began.

Sir Charles admitted: "We shall be very, very pushed to manage within our £450m cash limit for next year. We shall try

on earth is the point? Where will we be in three weeks time? The strikers will be very much poorer and the damage to the BSC and their future changes of jobs will have been damaged still further."

I can see absolutely no point in continuing with this strike. They should settle, arbitrate, or go to a ballot on our offer, which has been on the table for the past month."

The BSC chairman dismissed suggestions that the corporation planned to sell some of its main activities to the private sector.

to do this, but it will involve winding down certain of our activities."

He strongly denied that he or the BSC board were under any pressure from the Government to settle the strike, but indicated that such were the pressures on the corporation's finances that detailed talks with ministers might be needed once the strike was resolved and the damage assessed.

"I do not think that we shall go to the Government until the strike is over. I am not prepared to go whining and belly-aching. He could decide only after making a proper judgement of the damage and how far it could be repaired."

The BSC chairman dismissed suggestions that the corporation planned to sell some of its main activities to the private sector.

## Union call to bring in a mediator

By a Staff Reporter

A call for a mediator to be brought into the steel dispute was made yesterday by Mr Thomas Crispin, national officer for steel of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

The position now is much clearer. There is a document that has been agreed between the unions collectively and BSC and the issue between us now is one of 53 per cent," he said. "That seems to me to be an obvious issue now for a mediator to examine the difference with a view to making some recommendation to the parties."

The TGWU's 50-strong delegate conference is to meet today.

## Tube staff threaten wider action because of assaults

By Our Labour Staff

Railway union leaders will meet London Transport management today amid the threat of widening industrial action if Underground staff in protest against a series of assaults which culminated in last Friday's incident at Neasden station involving gangs of youths.

Last night staff on the Jubilee Line agreed not to operate services between West Hampstead and Queensbury after 10 pm from next Friday.

Mr John Hanson, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen's assaults committee, said last night that he expected that a meeting his week might decide to take even more drastic action on Saturday.

Mr Hanson complained that at weekends after 10 pm only four officers of the British Transport police were available to cover violent incidents on the Underground. Under London Transport procedures the British Transport police must be called to Neasden station involving gangs of youths.

Mr Hanson said that what was the main reason why, he claimed, it had taken 25 minutes before police had arrived at the scene of the Neasden fracas.

The unofficial move by staff on Friday will almost certainly mean that after 10 pm trains will not stop at West Hampstead, Kilburn, Willesden, Green, Dollis Hill, Neasden, Wembley Park, Kingsbury or Queensbury.

## Ballot on Easter strike called at nine airports

By Our Labour Staff

Easter holiday flights from nine municipal airports will be grounded for four days if air traffic controllers vote in support of a strike over pay called by their union, the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO).

The decision rests on a ballot of affected members called yesterday by the unions at the nine airports where NALGO said meetings had indicated support for a strike.

The airports at which members will be balloted are Luton, Coventry, Birmingham, Liverpool, Gloucester, Bristol, East Midlands, Swansea and Leeds/Bradford.

NALGO is bound by its rules to hold a ballot before official strike action.

The local authority employers said yesterday that after a comparability study carried out for NALGO groups, an 8 per cent award in addition to last year's 9.4 per cent award would yield total increases of 16 to 22.5 per cent over six months.

## Meetings ban by police a 'curb on free speech'

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
Allowing the police powers to ban meetings on public order grounds would represent a fundamental attack on free speech, the National Council for Civil Liberties told MPs yesterday.

It could not be justified by the experience of recent election meetings, the council said in evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs.

But the council called for a reassessment of policing of election meetings. Disturbances at a number of electoral meetings, particularly in Southall, indicated the need to consider a definition of a public meeting under the Act.

Frustration had centred on limitations put by the police and organizers on public access to meetings. Many such meetings organized by the National Front were not truly electoral meetings, and some local authorities refused to let halls to the NF on those grounds.

## Concessions have brought BSC and the unions closer together Productivity the key in steel peace formula

By Our Labour Editor

The joint union-management document considered by steelworkers' negotiators yesterday contains some concessions that have brought the two sides in the national steel strike closer together.

At issue now is the price the British Steel Corporation is being asked to pay for the agreement, which the steel union coordinating committee values at 14 per cent and management at only 9 per cent, with 1 per cent more if the unions accept the principle of a cutoff point for "lead-in" productivity bonus payments.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said: "The corporation has a document, but not an agreement until it pays the money."

A copy of the draft agreement, which presupposes a return to work no later than March 23, is in the hands of The Times. A preamble says: "Having regard to the cor-

poration's serious business difficulties, the corporation and the unions agree nationally the principle that in the year there should be significant pay increases but that these will be financed through improved performance and any other savings from productivity deals."

The two sides agree that much remains to be done to fulfil previous commitments, including improved working practices between unions, and reducing absenteeism and unnecessary overtime.

Clause 1.3 contains the heart of BSC's ambitions. It lays down that "the unions accept the continued need for joint discussions with the corporation at national and local level with TUC-affiliated unions

a. with the objective of achieving international manufacturing standards at all levels at ongoing plants to achieve the highest level of productivity pay and conditions in line with overseas competitors, particularly the

European iron and steel manufacturers, and b. on the means by which closer working relationships can be established between the corporation and all the nationally recognized TUC-affiliated unions."

Unions and management go on to "accept the urgent necessity for the restructuring of work at all levels of 12 months the achievement of these objectives so as to improve the corporation's costs and hence its effectiveness."

At local level, management aims to table by the end of April (and will by the end of June at the latest) plans for discussion and negotiation which will reduce the minimum level possible; reduce absenteeism to the minimum level possible; and reduce overtime to the minimum practicable level compatible with maintaining plant efficiency.

The two sides agree to a working party on the possibility

of suspending the working week at a mutual agreement. Constructive discussion of a 39-hour week or a 4-day week, effective 1.1.1982, are menu items for the working party to examine in the light of payment of ad workers aged 18.

A long and complex lump sum bonus commits the unions that method of new productivity scheme.

Given an order work not later than the draft agreement "to victimization either within the corporation or outside with suppliers or customers."

British Steel wants joint industrial council for the industry, which will all the unions to national standards of collective bargaining.

**Agirl's best friends...**

are her diamonds. Set in white-gold wire, this brooch realised £3,200 when it was included in a sale last January.

Sotheby's sell both antique and modern jewellery every month and an annual subscription to the specialised catalogues costs £17 (U.K. only).

If you have a piece of jewellery which you think might be of value, telephone or write to Peter Hinks or David Bennett.

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## Labour 'will repeal work Act'

By Our Labour Editor

Parliamentary Labour Party leaders have told the TUC that they intend when they regain office to repeal the forthcoming Employment Act and then renege "any valuable aspects" the legislation may have.

That is disclosed in confidential minutes of a meeting between the unions and PLP employment spokesmen, which will be considered tomorrow by the TUC employment policy and organization committee.

Union leaders told the politicians that there was a feeling in the TUC General Council that the Labour Party's response to the Employment Bill, now going through Parliament, "could be usefully strengthened."

It was pointed out that there was greater unanimity within the TUC over its opposition to the Bill than there had been over opposition to the Industrial Relations Act 1971.

Moreover, attitudes to the Bill are likely to harden, the unions said.

Mr Varley went on to request further guidance from the TUC on suitable amendments to put down to the Government's amendments to the Bill concerning secondary industrial action. A further meeting of the TUC and Labour's employment spokesmen in Parliament is to be held as soon as Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, publishes the amendments, to identify priorities for the report stage of the Bill in the Commons.

The TUC employment committee will have before it tomorrow further policy considerations on how opposition to the Government's legislation to curb trade union power should be intensified.

In the meantime the TUC is drawing some satisfaction from its campaign against the Bill. It gives a "realistic" estimate of 100,000 people at the March 10 rally in London, and looks forward to the countrywide day of action on May 14.

The TUC expects that the Bill's committee stage will be completed by the Easter recess, and the remaining stages are likely to take place soon after Parliament re-assembles.

"The PLP's intention is to force the Government to introduce its clause or clauses on secondary industrial action while the Bill is on the floor of the House, not in standing committee. In this way they will be able to secure much more publicity for the position of the Opposition than has so far been possible."

## Teacher fails to gain reinstatement

From Our Correspondent

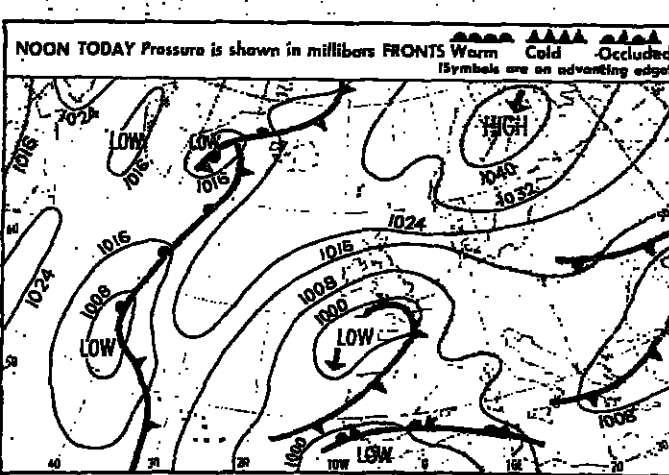
Nottingham  
Mrs Eileen Crosbie, a suspended nursery teacher, failed yesterday in her attempt to gain reinstatement.

After eight weeks off work, she arrived at her old school and said she was prepared to take lessons again.

After a four-hour meeting with teachers' union representatives, however, Nottinghamshire County Council refused to give her back her job at the Robert Mellors primary school, Arnold, Nottinghamshire.

The decision means that 10 Nottinghamshire schools will be affected by strike action from today.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today  
Sun rises: 7.08 am Sun sets: 7.11 pm  
Moon rises: 8.15 am Moon sets: 9.35 pm

First quarter: March 23.  
Lighting up: 7.41 pm to 6.36 am.  
High water: London Bridge, 3.40 am, 7.51 am, 4.8 pm, 7.8 pm. Avonmouth, 1.46 am, 14.6 pm, 9.47 pm, 14.4 pm. Dover, 12.32 am, 7.1 pm, 12.54 pm, 7.0 pm. Hull, 8.14 am, 7.3 am, 8.24 pm, 8.1 pm. Liverpool, 1.0 am, 9.9 am, 1.18 pm, 10.3 pm, 1.00 am, 0.3048 m, 1 m = 3.2808 ft.

A depression will move slowly S across SW Britain, with cold fronts becoming established over most areas.  
Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:  
London, East Anglia, Midlands, S Wales: Outbreaks of rain or sleet, snow on high ground; wind E, fresh, strong later; max temp 5°C (41°F).

SE, Central S, SW England, Channel Islands: Outbreaks of rain but sleet in places, a few bright intervals; wind variable, becoming E, moderate or fresh; max temp 7°C (45°F).

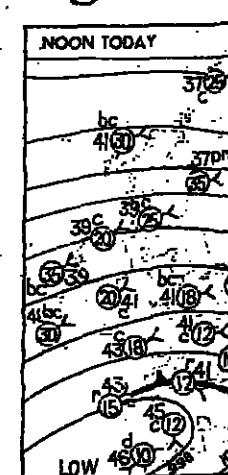
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## THE NEWS

# The threat of fascism likely if Labour in aims, Mr Benn tells

## Meeting of left-wingers

Mr Benn, who was the first to speak, said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right. He said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right. He said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right.



holding up a banner behind Mr Wedgwood Benn while Mr Peter Hain for calm at the left-wing debate at Central Hall, Westminster, last night.

## Four left urges CIA aid inquiry

Clark, a correspondent, said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right. He said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right. He said that the Labour Party was the only party in the British working class which was not a party of the right.

## Jenkins 'would boost credibility of Liberals'

Interviewed in the BBC television programme, *Panorama*, Mr Steel was asked whether Mr Jenkins was not a "spent force" in politics, having been away from the United Kingdom for more than three years. He disagreed. His party had not been in office in recent times and it would add considerable strength to the Liberal Party's appeal to have a man of Mr Jenkins's experience.

## Legal aid under 1 Chancellor

Legal Correspondent said that the Lord Chancellor's department was responsible for the legal aid system. He said that the Lord Chancellor's department was responsible for the legal aid system. He said that the Lord Chancellor's department was responsible for the legal aid system.

## Four Hell's Angels found guilty

Four defendants in the Hell's Angels trial at Winchester Crown Court were found guilty last night of riotous assembly and assault. An all-male jury failed to agree on verdicts involving the remaining 18 defendants, who deny similar charges. Two also denied attempted murder. The jury will return to continue considering their verdicts today.

## Whitehall brief: Croham Directive audit finds only 8% 'genuine' releases

### Modest results from open government policy

By Peter Hennassay and Colin Bennett

The Labour Cabinet of 1974-79 was the first British Administration to have an official open government policy. On July 6, 1977, a directive was circulated, with the authority of Mr James Callaghan, then Prime Minister, to 51 heads of department in Whitehall containing detailed instructions on how the new era of openness was to be introduced.

## £300,000 gift to Harefield heart team

A gift of £300,000 has been promised to Harefield Hospital, Uxbridge, for its heart transplant programme by Mr John James, a millionaire from Ascot, Berkshire. The gift comes less than a week after Mr David Robinson, a friend and business rival of Mr James, announced that he would give £300,000 to Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, for its heart transplant work.

## Translation error led to fungicide muddle

From Michael Hornsby. Brussels, March 17. Britain of an EEC fungicide test, with possible dangerous consequences for public health, has been traced to a mistranslation in the English version of the French regulation enforcing it.

## Blizzards and ice affect many roads in North

Blizzards and up to 8 in of snow affected many parts of Britain yesterday, and hazardous conditions for motorists were reported in wide areas of the North. Police in mid-Wales gave a warning of frozen snow on high ground.

## NHS dental charges go up on April 1

By Our Health Services Correspondent. New dental charges are to come into effect on April 1 in England and Wales, it was announced last night. The cost of crowns, inlays, playals and gold fillings in the NHS will rise from £12 to £18 a tooth restored, and the maximum charge for more than three teeth restored from £36 to £54.

## Judge says action is a publicity exercise

Four National Health Service patients launched a renewed attempt in the Court of Appeal yesterday to show that the Department of Health did not carry out its obligations in the mid-1970s by failing to provide new hospital facilities in Birmingham. It comes after an unsuccessful damages claim in the High Court last year.

## £1 basic price of telegram

Telegram charges are to rise by an average of 35 per cent on April 1, the first increase, according to the Post Office, for nearly five years. The Watchdog Post Office Users' National Council says the increase is justified and also welcomes the Post Office's determination to keep the service going.

## Farmers call for tough line with France

By Hugh Clayton. Agriculture Correspondent. Farmers' leaders appealed to the Government yesterday for tough action over illegal French barriers against British lamb. Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, said that British farmers might demand similar illegal protection against imports of food from France.

## Three trains went over broken weld, inquiry told

At least three trains passed safely over a broken weld on a track before a 95mph express train was derailed by it, a Department of Transport inquiry was told in London yesterday. On one train the jolt was severe enough for passengers to comment on it. Less than 24 hours after the Euston to Manchester express crashed off the line, injuring 48 people, nine coaches were derailed and three overturned.

Colonel Townsend-Rose said Mr Pitt's train and at least two others passed safely over the weld before the accident. Earlier the inquiry had heard that there were 130 passengers on the express. The inquiry was told by Mr Donatien Moio, a leading trackman, that he made a routine examination of the track only hours before the crash. He walked up and down the line but saw nothing wrong.

## Cruft's judge remanded

Michael Doremley, aged 37, a judge at Cruft's Dog Show, was remanded on bail by magistrates at Driffield, Humberside, yesterday for four weeks after an allegation of bribery.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Dutch offer to mediate as Howe plea gets deaf ear in Brussels

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, March 17

A strong plea by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a redress of Britain's EEC budget deficit was greeted by other EEC finance ministers here today with what he himself described as "a deafening silence".

The gulf between Britain and its EEC partners on the budget issue was apparently so deep that other member states did not consider it worthwhile even to go through the motions of repeating their already well-known positions.

Mr Alfons Van der Stee, the Dutch Finance Minister, is flying to London tomorrow for talks with Sir Geoffrey in an attempt to persuade him that Britain must reduce its budget claim if there is to be any chance of agreement.

The Dutch Finance Minister said he was prepared to offer to mediate between Britain and the rest of the Community if Sir Geoffrey could offer some sign that his Government was prepared to be more flexible than hitherto.

Mr Van der Stee confessed, however, that he was "deeply pessimistic" about the chances of a solution to the budget dispute being found at the next EEC summit meeting in Brussels on March 31 and April 1.

Sir Geoffrey told his EEC colleagues that the size of Britain's net contribution—predicted to reach £1,000 million this year—was "unacceptable". It was essential that the summit meeting should lead to agreement on both the amounts and the duration of financial relief for Britain.

Britain is asking for a £350m refund on its gross contribution to budget revenue supplement, but by an increase of between £550m and £650m in British receipts from the budget which, on a per capita basis, are at present less than half the Community average.

Sir Geoffrey said there was no technical obstacle to achieving the British objectives, but had shown how extra EEC funds could be channelled to agreed development projects in Britain. It was simply a question of generating the political will.

Asked whether Britain was

prepared to see a budget solution as part of a wider settlement of Community disputes, on such matters as lamb, fish and the level of farm prices, Sir Geoffrey replied that he understood why other member states were seeking to make this link. In their position he would do the same.

But the Chancellor carefully refrained from saying whether Britain was in practice prepared to consider such a trade-off. The British budget claim, he said, "commands and requires a solution on its own merits".

The contentious budget issue is to be taken up again tomorrow by Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, and other EEC foreign ministers. It seems unlikely, however, that they will be able to advance the debate much further than their financial colleagues. Everything thus now waits on the summit meeting.

Schmidt meeting: Discretion was the keyword after the four and a half hour working dinner which President Schmidt d'Estaing had with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, at his home in Hamburg last night (Charles Hargrove writes from Paris).

The President said afterwards the meeting had "been particularly useful with a view to meeting the coming deadlines which are important both for Europe and for the world".

Today, the spokesman of the Elysée Palace emphasized that "France has the political will to achieve an equitable solution" to the problems facing the member countries of the European Community.

This solution must deal with all the problems concerned. But in order to achieve it, "the political will of France must be shared by her partners".

He added that the discussions between the two statesmen had been exhaustive and very friendly, and covered not only the Community's difficulties, but all international issues.

Both had agreed in particular that it was necessary to get the Euro-Arab dialogue under way again. This was a constant theme of the talks. M. Giscard d'Estaing had with rulers of the Gulf states and of the Arabian peninsula.



The King and Queen of Spain arriving in Copenhagen on a three-day state visit to Denmark.

## Bretons angered by apparent failure to stem oil pollution along their coastline

From Ian Murray

Paris, March 17

With the worst of the high spring tides of this week still to come, the thick black oil has now reached more than 60 miles of Brittany beaches. The prefecture in the Côte du Nord still describes the situation as being "not very serious", but local people are beginning to show increasing resentment at what they see as lack of official action to minimize oil pollution along their coastline.

So far the oil has only seriously polluted a small area around the pink granite coast at Tregastel, Ploumanouch and Perros Guirec. Here every tide brings in more oil, making it look as though the hundreds of soldiers working with buckets and spades to clear it away had been doing nothing.

In fact something like 2,300 tonnes of oil have been scraped off the beaches, but that still leaves an estimated 6,000 tonnes at large—double the amount which has already caused so much trouble.

The worst-hit beaches are experiencing their third "black time" in 13 years and people who remember the Torrey Canyon in 1967 and the Amoco Cadiz two years ago claim that the heavy oil from the Tanco

is proving the most difficult to clear.

The people along this coastline appear to have come to the conclusion that they have had enough of hearing the brunt of this too regular form of pollution. Yesterday no farmers came forward to help the soldiers on the beaches with their invaluable trailers and tractors. There were scarcely any volunteers available to work with the soldiers.

In the words of M René Marzin, the Mayor of Tregastel: "The people here will no longer lend a helping hand. They have had it, brimful and flowing over."

Local people complain that the decision to launch the "Polmar" plan, which was worked out after the Amoco Cadiz disaster, was taken far too late because the authorities were afraid of spending money.

Another local grumble is that virtually nothing seems to have been learnt about cleaning up polluted beaches or dispersing oil at sea in the two years that have passed since the Amoco Cadiz went down. Insufficient plastic sheeting to protect the beaches has been available.

So far the Ministry of the Environment has allocated one million francs to the work of cleaning up the Tanco oil, and further sums are being needed. Studies on the impact

of the wreck on the marine and bird life have been ordered and a government expert has been dispatched to lead the work of resuing the birds thought to be dying by the hundred in the thick grease.

The first claims for compensation from oyster hatcheries and shellfish farms have started to come in and, even though the beaches should be clear by the holiday season, the tourism trade is already receiving some cancellations.

Just how much the affair will cost in terms of cleaning and compensation will not be known for some time. Much may depend on the success of the British insurers in being able to refloat the forward section of the ship, which sank 35 miles off Roscoff with 11,000 tonnes of oil trapped in its tanks. Otherwise the oil will have to be pumped up, an extremely costly process.

The legal argument surrounding the Amoco Cadiz is still expected to last a further three years, with the 150 French plaintiffs claiming a total of 3,000 million francs damages. Seventy thousand documents have so far been filed, and the tanker company is mounting a counter claim for damages on the ground that the wreck was provoked by bad coastal surveillance methods.

## Italian Government lays plans for its own fall

From John Earle

Rome, March 17

Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, discussed the impending fall of his Government with President Alessandro Pertini and the presidents of the two houses of Parliament today. He outlined to them the timetable for the fall.

He is to make a statement in both the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate on Wednesday, as a prelude to a debate in the two houses which will make clear that his minority Administration has lost the confidence of the Christian Democrats, Social Democrats and Liberals no longer commands support after the withdrawal by the Socialists of their promise to abstain in voting.

Signor Cossiga may draw the consequences of his position on a vote of confidence, and already had his resignation to President Pertini last Thursday.

## Bargaining in critical stage over Schild abduction

Negotiations between the British businessman Mr. Rolf Schild and his kidnappers, holding his daughter, Annabel, have reached a critical stage.

In London yesterday Mr. Schild's solicitor, Mr. Montague Samuels, said: "Communications are continuing—they have never broken down. They are at a critical stage, and have been for some weeks. But the thing is being done through intermediaries."

The Schild family was kidnapped in Sardinia last August. Mr. Schild was soon released and his wife Daphne was set free eight weeks ago, after ransom was paid. News of her release was given at the weekend by the Pope, who appealed to the kidnappers to free Annabel, aged 15, a deaf mute.

Mr. Schild flew to London on Sunday, but refused to comment. Mrs. Schild is staying with friends in Sardinia.

The British Vice-Consul in Cagliari, Miss Nadine Eskerding, said yesterday that Mrs. Schild was "physically unhurt but distressed. She certainly was not injured by the kidnappers, but she is obviously very concerned about her daughter. When I saw her she was living in a different world."

She said Mrs. Schild had decided to stay on the island to await her daughter's release. A new aspect was added to the case at the weekend after suggestions by Sardinian police that Annabel Schild may have been "sold" to another gang by her kidnappers.

Yesterday police said they had found 19m lire (£10,000), part of a ransom paid for an Italian kidnapped last year.

## Bomb damages unlisted Paris building

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, March 17

A building believed to house one of the offices of the DST, the French counter-espionage unit, was damaged on Saturday night by a bomb.

No telephone number is listed in the Paris directory for two floors of the building, and the French counter-espionage unit is kept permanently closed with shutters.

Nobody has yet claimed responsibility for the explosion. However, the Corsican nationalist movement had claimed responsibility for an explosion which damaged the lifts in the north-wing of the Paris Hotel de Ville the previous night.

Blast victims sought

Almeria, March 17.—Firemen were searching for five people feared killed today when a two-storey building collapsed after an explosion in an adjoining chemist's shop in this southern Spanish town.

## OVERSEAS

## Afghan émigré leaders haggle over power while tribesmen fight

From Richard Wigg

Peshawar, March 17

A large, freshly painted house on the edge of Peshawar, the sprawling former British Army garrison town, has just been taken over by one of the principal Afghan political groups fighting the Soviet-supported regime of Babrak Karmal in Afghanistan.

The move from dingy rooms down an alleyway adds prestige to the Babrak Karmal, aged 40, the head of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamiat movement who seems set to become president of the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan, an umbrella organization of five anti-communist émigré groups. But it also suggests a certain permanence on the Pakistani side of the frontier.

Professor Rabani himself gives a cautious answer when asked whether the alliance is potentially an Afghan Government in exile: "We have plans, we have territories," he said, "where we might establish a government-in-exile but we are not sure how the security of our government could be established."

When asked if any date is envisaged, he replied: "After we have seen what support we get from other countries. We shall go ahead." The best place would be inside Afghanistan, because setting up a government in Peshawar "might make difficulties for Pakistan"—with the Russians, evidently.

The Afghan anti-communist groupings started coming to Peshawar just 30 miles from the Pakistan-Afghan frontier at the Khyber Pass, almost three years ago, after the initial Kabul coup. While the Afghan tribesmen sit wretchedly in the refugee camps set up by the Pakistani Government and assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, waiting for the arms with which to go back and fight, their leaders in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province, lead the better life of lounge and sheikhs, typical of émigré political groups.

A Maulvi (an Islamic learned man) in one of the camps on the road to the Khyber Pass was frank about his political leaders. "It might be better," he said through an interpreter, "if instead of sitting and drinking tea, our leaders would go and inspire our tribesmen to greater fighting by their presence inside Afghanistan; we would gladly leave these tents behind and go with them to head the tribesmen and sacrifice our lives."

There are other critical voices to be heard among the refugees. "At the last count there were 14 émigré political groups, often

the result of one faction within an established movement splitting off under its own strong-willed leader. The Islamic Alliance groups five of them, but 'Hezb-i Islami' led by Mr. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, an engineer who is 25, claims—as his adherents, the Islamic insurgents fighting inside Afghanistan—

Hezb and the Jamiat movement of Professor Rabani, Mr. Hekmatyar told me, were unable to agree on a representation weighted according to estimated support among the guerrillas; this was the chief reason why his group remained outside the alliance. The Hezb leader urged foreign governments not to recognize what he called a "minority organization," referring to the alliance.

An Afghan village school-teacher, speaking in one of the camps, blamed the divisions on the self-interest of the leaders. "An Afghan émigré newspaper editor, who returned a fortnight ago from a visit to his native province west of Kabul, maintained that the main share of the fighting in Afghanistan was done by the tribesmen under local leadership."

Many émigré political leaders, he asserted, concentrated too much on recruiting support among the refugees. The latest official figures give just under 500,000 refugees in the North-West Frontier Province, with about 100,000 more in Baluchistan. The North-West Frontier Province, particularly its tribal agencies along the Afghan-Pakistan border, is where the tribesmen feel best.

It is already easy to encounter criticism of the Afghan refugees, even among educated Pakistanis. A Pakistani economist said: "I think the Western media have romanticized the Afghan freedom fighters, re-enacting their great struggle against the British last century. Many tribesmen are fighting very bravely, I am not denying that. But there is another important aspect. The tribesmen who come here with their families have known only mountains, racks, their villages and sheep; but today is not like last century, suddenly in Pakistan they confront the modern way of life. Pakistan may seem a poor country to you, but it is like Paris to them."

Steek Mercedes cars with Afghan bumper plates amid the bullock carts and traps of the local population in Peshawar are a reminder that not all the refugees are backward tribesmen awaiting their world food programme and United Nations rations. There are enterprising businessmen too.

If the refugees do not go back soon, and few Pakistanis I met believe they will, economic rivalries will be an increasing problem.

## Russians deny gas attacks

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, March 17

The Soviet Union has again angrily denied that its troops in Afghanistan have used poisonous gas in attacks on Muslim tribesmen, and have described Western news agency reports of such an attack on February 22 as "frauds" and "monstrous fabrications".

Today's denial published by Pravda is one of a number of sharply worded commentaries recently on the reports, which have stung the Soviet Union. Pravda said the story was an example of American propaganda leaning over backwards to slander the internationalist aid given by the Soviet state to the Afghan people.

The story's origin among the "Basmachi" gang of Afghan fighters who received weapons from Pakistan through the Khyber Pass was fresh proof of who was actually supporting the gangs sowing death in Afghanistan, the newspaper said.

Meanwhile, Soviet correspondents in Kabul today denounced the Japanese decision to grant Pakistan \$1.5m (£680,000) aid for Afghan refugees. Tass report described the refugees as "gangs of mercenaries in Pakistan's territory who are armed and trained by American and Chinese instructors and then sent back into Afghanistan to fight against the Government and people."

Calling the suspension of Japanese aid to Afghanistan high-handed and cynical, Tass said aid in any case had been mainly promises and projects with little effect on the Afghan economy.

The Afghan Government today announced that all property confiscated from Afghan citizens during the rule of former President Amin would be returned. Those who had left Afghanistan and had expressed their opposition to the Government would not get their property back, however.

Islamabad, March 17.—President Zia ul-Haq acknowledged for the first time today that his Government had crushed a plot against him.

Pakistan officials originally described reports of an abortive coup on March 11 as "abundant and malicious fabrication". But President Zia, in response to a local reporter's question on the reports, acknowledged that the plot had been broken up and the ringleader executed.

"I have the very firm con-

## Mr Car has nan win in Puerto

From David Cross

Washington, March 17

President Carter another series of "victories" over Edward Kennedy, who in Puerto Rico presidential primary.

With 99 per cent counted, Mr Carter 52 per cent, compared with 47 per cent for Mr Kennedy. The President 21 de March 17, 1980.

The outcome in provided some to Kennedy, who the Carter in his campaign. Kennedy described as "very encouraging" he thought his now "on the me that he was aware of some primary in Illinois.

Nevertheless, Romero, a supporter of Mr Kennedy, was the results of the Puerto Rican primary. Kennedy was the primary as a population was in part in mainland Puerto Rico can be general.

The primary in Puerto Rico was the passions around statehood issue, Mr Kennedy's campaign was a relationship. Na has, however, a position on the island.

When votes were night the leader, Kennedy's campaign for the President's victory to fraud, which camp denied.

Early returns from South Carolina, which caucuses at the week, provided more victory for Mr Kennedy, the worse news for him of a public opinion poll.

The public regard even less trust for President Carter led the list of trusted politicians.

The survey also showed that Mr. Ni such a bad presiden

## Print union fined in Frankfurt

Frankfurt, March 17.—West Germany's printing union was ordered to pay DM58,200 (£14,500) in damages today for preventing *The Times* from issuing a German-based weekly edition last April.

A Frankfurt court made the award to a local firm which contracted to print the edition. It said the union should have ensured that demonstrations outside the firm were peaceful.

The *Times* tried to publish in Frankfurt four months after ceasing publication in London. The British unions persuaded German trade unionists to prevent the publication and protest rallies by the IG Druck and Papier Union became violent when leftist extremists joined in.

The court said IG Druck intervened illegally in the dispute and could not plead that it was a normal strike. As organizer of the rallies the union was responsible for seeing that remained peaceful, it said.—Reuter.

## Avalanches kill three skiers in French Alps

Chamonix, March 17.—Avalanches in the French Alps killed one Canadian and two American skiers over the weekend, Alpine police reported today.

Mr Barry Burt Glass, aged 39, a computer expert from Florida living in Borex, Switzerland, was killed when a huge mass of snow slid over him at Cervin-Montjoie, near St Gervais.

The names of the other two skiers who were killed at l'Aiguille des Drues near Chamonix were not known.—Agence France-Presse.



Milada and Peter Kratochvil telling reporters in Vienna about their decision to defect.

## Prague theatre stars defect

From Sue Masterman

Vienna, March 17

Two prominent members of the world-famous Black Theatre of Prague have defected to the West. While the company was preparing for its last performance in the Austrian city of Linz at the end of a six-month tour, the two actors, Milada Kratochvil and Peter Kratochvil, applied for political asylum in Vienna.

"We are staying in Austria because we want to live a life which suits us and in which we can develop as artists," Mr Kratochvil said. "We are 29 and an actor and producer, plans to found together with his wife, aged 24, a new ensemble, called Theatre from Prague, which will tour the world with a programme of music and pantomime. They already have an offer from an American theatre."

The couple, who are too young to be affected by the restrictions put on individual artists who were active during the Prague Spring of 1968, say that they are tired of the all-pervading censorship which affects all forms of artistic life in Czechoslovakia.

"It's like being in Austria and being forbidden to play Mozart," Mr Kratochvil says. He wants to make a film about the way in which *The White Sickness*, a Czech classic, has been recently banned.

However, the Kratochvils do not believe that the present harsh censorship means that creativity is doomed in Czechoslovakia. "Repression gives rise to a new kind of concentration and a new kind of creativity," Mr Kratochvil believes. "But it means that what you think and write gets no further than the drawer of the desk. That's our problem."

The Kratochvils' application for asylum will automatically be granted.

positions, and actions, as well as its Popular Front strategy" had borne fruit. "The negative attitude of the Communist leadership is clearly condemned by its voters who remain strongly attached to the unity of the left."

The Communist counter-offensive over the Marchais affair has gone into high gear, after some preliminary hesitation about the most effective tactics. Hitherto they branded as a fake the document purporting to prove that the Communist leader had been a voluntary worker in Germany during the war, and not compulsorily requisitioned (as he always claimed) and that he had stayed there much longer than he claimed. Now the Communists argue that the document proves nothing either way, and that to go to work in Germany does not convince one of collaboration with the enemy. This standpoint is shared by non-Communist commentators.

The suggestion is made in the latest issue of the independent left-wing magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* that M Marchais

was in touch with the Communist International long before he officially joined the party in 1947. This would explain how a man who had been a voluntary worker in Germany could rapidly obtain a post of responsibility in the party hierarchy.

This is described as a "judgment of stupidity" by M Roland Leroy, the editor-in-chief of the Communist newspaper *L'Humanité*, who claimed yesterday that M Marchais had gone to Moscow for the first time in 1959.

The Communists are convinced that the revelations by *L'Express* are part of an offensive to exclude M Marchais from the presidential contest next year. But they feel they have already scored points on their opponents by their leader's demands for investigation into the activities of all politicians during the war: for a parliamentary committee to examine the responsibilities of all those who had connections with the former Emperor Bokassa; and for all public figures to declare their incomes and assets.

## Militants close ranks around M Marchais

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, March 17

The enduring controversy about the wartime past of M Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, who started a fortnight ago by the allegations in the news magazine *L'Express*, have provoked the party militants to close ranks around him on a scale that the leadership itself finds surprising.

But, conversely, the Communist attacks continue unabated against the Socialists, in general, and M François Mitterrand, their leader, in particular—accused of having at least as many skeletons in his cupboard. The Communists accuse the Socialists of being the objective allies of the right as shown by the disaffection of left-wing voters for the Communist candidates in local elections. This was clear from the seven cantonal contests which took place yesterday to return representatives to the *conseils généraux* or departmental assemblies, as it was in previous contests of the same kind earlier this year.

When, in the second ballot,

## General Zia admits plot happened

Islamabad, March 17.—President Zia ul-Haq acknowledged for the first time today that his Government had crushed a plot against him.

Pakistan officials originally described reports of an abortive coup on March 11 as "abundant and malicious fabrication". But President Zia, in response to a local reporter's question on the reports, acknowledged that the plot had been broken up and the ringleader executed.

"I have the very firm con-

viction that this could not have taken place unless there was a foreign hand," he said, without singling out any country.

Retired Major-General Tajmal Hussain Malik was arrested last week for allegedly engineering the conspiracy against the President, who himself seized power in a military coup in July, 1977.

Without mentioning General Tajmal by name, President Zia said: "An individual person has subjected himself to the mischief of the law. We will

deal with him according to law."

President Zia announced changes in his cabinet Government. He relieved four military governors of their posts and Cabinet ministers of the 6th Corps.

The move, which would effect immediately, was to "enable the government to devote themselves to civilian duties".—UPI Agence France-Presse.



## OVERSEAS

Australia wool dispute  
sues hardest test  
Puer Fraser strategyOur Correspondent  
Sydney, March 17

There is a wool dispute in Australia now in its tenth year. It is the longest running dispute in the history of the wool industry. The Government of Australia has been involved in it since 1970. The Government has been involved in it since 1970. The Government has been involved in it since 1970.

Mr Douglas Anthony, Deputy Prime Minister, has said that the Government will not be involved in the dispute. He has said that the Government will not be involved in the dispute. He has said that the Government will not be involved in the dispute.

Int of Husain option  
peace with IsraelAshe Brilliant  
Sydney, March 17

Mr Hussein of Jordan has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Israeli Government. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Israeli Government. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Israeli Government.

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## Military keeps role of overseer after coup by group of soldiers

## Civil government quickly returns in Surinam

James Kilgus  
Paramaribo, March 17

The military has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Surinamese Government. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Surinamese Government. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the Surinamese Government.

Africa church  
lodge protestOur Correspondent  
Johannesburg, March 17

The Anglican Church in Africa has been seen as a potential candidate to head the African Church. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the African Church. He has been seen as a potential candidate to head the African Church.

Aid agency  
gives famine  
warning on  
Kampuchea

By Roger Berthoud

Kampuchea faces another potentially catastrophic food shortage unless international aid is maintained, Mr Ian Hopwood, deputy head of Unicef's emergency relief operations in Phnom Penh since October, said in London yesterday.

The peak of the food shortage was from July to September last year, he said. Food began to get through in substantial quantities in October, though there were distribution problems. There was a small harvest towards the end of the year, when the situation was improving.

By then, however, it was clear how serious damage to agriculture had been, and how inadequate would be the six-month food aid programme. Owing to drought, the next harvest was expected to be poor, and in some provinces granaries would be empty in a few weeks, so dependence there on outside aid would be total.

The last six-month aid programme, drawn up on behalf of all United Nations agencies and the International Red Cross, had resulted in contributions of about \$210m (£99m), of which \$191m had been spent. A new programme had been drawn up, and further \$262m would be required to the end of the year.

Like the first programme, this covered operations on the Thai border and for refugees in Thailand as well as aid in Kampuchea itself. We will get it. But it will require a miracle. Mr Hopwood said.

The main thrust was on survival and on increasing local food production. The Phnom Penh Government was trying to recreate every aspect of life. For example, the school system. Of an estimated 15,000 to 20,000 school teachers, only about 4,000 had been traced. Virtually all records and libraries had disappeared.

In each government ministry, said Mr Hopwood, there tended to be three groups: the political decision makers, who were the revolutionaries, with their Vietnamese advisers; the battered remains of the old Phnom Penh elite, who had suffered enormously; and former students who had been brought back to be the backbone of the future Kampuchea.

There had been some revival of social life. The birth rate was rising, and although many babies were underweight, mortality rates were lower than last summer.

Allegations about the diversion of food to soldiers had been investigated. "But we have encountered nothing on any significant scale to substantiate these allegations," said Mr Hopwood.

## Papua moderate takes power

From Douglas Aitken  
Melbourne, March 17

Though Mr Michael Somare seemed stunned by his defeat in a no-confidence vote in Papua New Guinea's parliament last week, for most observers the result of the vote came as no surprise.

Duke begins his  
tour of Kenya

Nairobi, March 17.—The Duke of Gloucester, arrived in Kenya today on a four-day official visit.

In his capacity as Grand Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, he is to invest President Moi as a Knight of Grace of the Order of St John tomorrow.



Ready for hand-over: Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, meeting Lord Soames (right), the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, at the Foreign Office yesterday to discuss the final

stage of the hand-over of power in an independent Zimbabwe, including the question of economic aid. Britain is ready to help the country both directly and in mobilizing international assistance.

Decisions on longer term capital aid will be taken after Mr Robert Mugabe's government has drawn up its programme. An aid mission will go to Salisbury in April, after independence.

## Rhodesia sets free most martial law detainees

From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, March 17

All but one of the detainees being held under Southern Rhodesia's emergency powers now have been released. British sources said today, and it is expected that martial law will be lifted over the next few days.

When Britain took over the administration of the country in December, there were more than 5,000 martial law detainees. This was reduced to about 1,300 just prior to last month's election.

Among those released in the last week were more than 500 auxiliaries loyal to the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole's wing of Zanu.

The remaining detainees, who are being held in Gatooma, is to be charged with a common law offence.

There remain several hundred people in Rhodesian prisons who were convicted of offences under martial law regulations. No decision on their future has yet been taken.

However, it is expected they will be transferred into civil custody once martial law has been lifted, and those who are found guilty of offences that fall within the ambit of the amnesty arising from the Lancaster House agreement will be set free.

British sources also said that several hundred detainees being held under the 30-day order in terms of the emergency powers were also in the process of being set free.

Three of these detainees, however, are to appear in court during the next few days.

The decision on releasing the last remaining detainees and the imminent lifting of martial law was taken by Lord Soames, the Governor, (at present on a brief visit to London) in consultation with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister designate.

Martial law was progressively introduced during the last two years as the guerrilla war spread across the country. By late last year around 90 per cent of the country was under martial law, which gave the security forces powers to take whatever steps they considered necessary to "suppress terrorism".

Under the regulations a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed almost everywhere, but this has been abandoned in many parts of the country.

The release of the detainees and the planned lifting of martial law are further indications that the country is rapidly returning to normality after seven years of escalating civil war.

## Sponsorship—A Personal Way to Help.

Without your help, this child faces a bleak future. There is little hope for him and the many other children like him, living in the poorer countries of the world.

But you can give him a chance. Yes, you personally. By sponsoring a child like this through ActionAid, you can give him the opportunity to help himself. To help his family. And to help his whole community.

The cost? Just £6.50 a month—which may not buy much in this country, but can supply a child in the Third World with the basic education and practical training that's so desperately needed. As well as food and clothing when necessary.

An investment that will help the community itself to support its own children in the future.

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assistance which will help them become valuable members of their own society. To play their part in the vital struggle for self-reliance.

How Sponsorship Works. Ideally, sponsorship is a long-term commitment—usually lasting several years. But should you be unable to continue, we will make sure that the child does not suffer in any way.

Details of individual children are sent to London from the appropriate overseas office of ActionAid.

As a sponsor you'll receive a case history, complete with a photo of the child you can help, and brief details of his or her background and circumstances.

If you want to, you can send letters to "your child". These will then be translated and explained by ActionAid staff.

Initially you'll receive occasional drawings from the child.

Plus regular reports on the child's progress.

When the child learns to write, ActionAid staff will help him or her to send letters to you.

You'll be able to learn at first hand what life is really like in a very different culture to our own. And just how your contribution is helping your child and his community.

Please help. We're relying on you. And so are the children.

ActionAid. Each child sponsored is a child with hope.

ActionAid, Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Christopher Chataway  
To: ActionAid, Dept. 04414, c/o Midland Bank Limited,  
P.O. Box 12C, 52 Oxford Street, London W1A 1EG.  
Tel. 01-226 3383.  
I wish to be a sponsor. Please send me details of a child on your waiting list.  
I enclose £6.50 for my first month's help. ☐  
Please send me general details about ActionAid. ☐  
I cannot sponsor a child at present but enclose a gift of: £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £25 ☐ £100 ☐ £200 ☐  
Please make cheques payable to ActionAid Appeal.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Block letters please)  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
04414



OVERSEAS

# Envoy jumps to safety from occupied embassy in Colombia

Bogotá, March 17.—Señor Fernando Gómez Fyris, the Colombian Ambassador to Colombia, escaped through a second-floor window of the occupied Dominican Embassy here early today to get away from terrorists who have been holding him and at least 20 other people hostage since February 27, a military spokesman said.

Señor Gómez lowered himself from the window on a rope made out of bedsheet, which broke before he reached the ground. "The Ambassador is uninjured, without any fractures and only a few bruises because the rope of sheets that he used to come down from the second floor broke and he had to jump to the exterior garden of the embassy," Señora Marta Montoya, the press secretary of President Turbay Ayala, said. "There were three shots from the embassy, but none of them hit him," she denied reports from reporters at the scene that a soldier fired at the ambassador, thinking he was one of the terrorists.

"The troops have instructions not to shoot when anyone leaves the embassy," she said. "The Ambassador was one of the cars parked in front of the embassy and shouted his name to the military police. They picked him up and drove him to a military hospital."

## Hospital death form signed while husband still alive

From Ivor Davis  
Las Vegas, March 17.—The widow of 51-year-old man who died in the intensive care unit of the Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas said she was asked to sign a hospital death release form by a nurse who told her: "Your husband is expected to die within the next few hours."

Mrs. Bertha Fraser, whose husband Vincent was in critical condition as a result of severe internal bleeding, said she signed the form without thinking late on the evening of March 2. At 7.40 the next morning her husband, who was being kept alive on life-sustaining equipment, died of what the coroner later determined to be "liver infection."

The Las Vegas District Attorney today said that the Fraser case was one of a half dozen deaths in the past few weeks that are being investigated following last Friday's allegations of a macabre scheme involving an intensive care nurse and other staff who are reported to have placed bets on when time patients in the ward would die. One unidentified nurse called "the angel of death" was supposed to have engineered the

## Claim of £1.35m over death of racing driver

From Our Correspondent  
Johannesburg, March 17.—The widow of Mr. Tom Pryce, the Welsh motor racing driver who was killed in the South African Grand Prix in 1977, is claiming £1.4m and £2.5m in damages from the organizers of the race.

## High award for Gurkha who subdued eight men

Lance Corporal Aimsing Limbu, aged 29, becomes the first member of the Brigade of Gurkhas to be awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal when he goes to Buckingham Palace today.

## Shooting at university in San Salvador

San Salvador, March 17.—Security forces fought a three-hour gun fight today with leftist militants occupying El Salvador's national university in the capital. Police said they had no immediate word of casualties.

## For the record

Tennis  
SAN JOSE: Friendship Cup tournament. Final: U.S. (Cliff Richey) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 vs. Argentina (Luis Ayala) 3-6, 4-6, 2-6. U.S. won 2-1.

SPORT

Rugby Union

# Tucker is among 20 new Lions for South Africa



Beaumont: leads Lions.

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent  
Twenty of the British Isles players named yesterday to tour South Africa this summer under the leadership of England's captain, Bill Beaumont, will be sharing a new experience, although all of them have played for their countries. This represents a big turnover since the last Lions expedition to New Zealand in 1977, but eight of the remaining 10 will be at forward. Twelve of the party are Welsh and eight are English, with the remaining 10 places being shared by Irishmen and Scots. In the 1977 party to New Zealand there were 16 from Wales, 6 from England, 5 from Scotland and 2 from Ireland.

Hardly a Lions side is announced without the inclusion of a surprise selection and in this case it must be that of Colin Tucker, an Irish flanker who played twice for his country last season and this year won a third cap as a replacement in Paris. Less surprising is the choice of the Scottish fullback, Andy Irvine, as wing three-quarter (a position he adored in two international appearances on the last tour to South Africa in 1974).

At full back the selectors have plumped for Bruce Hay (Scotland) and Rodney O'Donnell (Ireland), who should provide the courage and security they are looking for. This is bad news for Alastair Gignell, who would have had extra qualities to offer. All 30 members of the side have played for their country in this year's championship or been a member of their national parties.

Tucker, who was in the Munster side that beat the All Blacks in 1978, was brought back to the job and, all in all, the selectors should have a flexible combination as circumstances have allowed. Beattie might make a flanker or a lock. Scrummager and O'Donnell are familiar with No 8; Tucker prefers the blind-side but should now cope well on the other.

Beaumont is the first Englishman to captain a Lions side since Doug Pringle in 1930. He, Maurice Colclough, and Allan Martin, of Wales, were mandatory selections at lock. The fourth player for that position is Alan Jones, a Scot, whose performance in the Calcutta cup match capped his season and gained him preference over the Irishman, who was chosen for the Lions in 1977 but was then withdrawn for medical reasons.

## Full list and career details of British Isles party for South Africa

Full backs: E. J. Ball (Boroughmuir and Scotland); aged 28, 5ft 10in, 13st 7lb. Commercial representative. His second British Lions tour, having gone to New Zealand in 1977. Has won 17 caps for his country. Five as a full back and four as a wing. He made his first international appearance in New Zealand on Scotland's short tour in 1975 and broke an arm after only 12 minutes.

played in two international on the wing and scored 156 points on tour. All four international in New Zealand in 1977. First Lions in New Zealand in 1977. A new five nations best of 46 points in 1977. He has been a mainstay in defence.

Clothing manufacturer. Seven caps. Achieved a record in his first full season in international rugby with a new five nations best of 46 points in 1977. He has been a mainstay in defence.

in 1975 he achieved the 'maius distinction for a prop of scoring a try on his first international tour. Four international for the Lions in New Zealand in 1977. Toured Australia with Wales in 1978.

Zealand when Roger drew with a 12-12 draw. Played in the final C. C. Tucker (Shannon) six-try season when he was captain of the team. He has been a mainstay in defence.

Number Eight: J. R. Beattie (Glasgow and Scotland); 35, 15 st. Engineer. Four caps. Came into the team in 1978 and played in the All Blacks, and he himself, 'Ideal back' for South Africa and New Zealand in 1977.

## Golf

### Why women players will be 'dressing up' at Ascot

Britain's women golfers will have an incentive to "soar up" when they tee off in the 10th round of the Women's British Open at Ascot, says a golf writer. The writer says that the women players will be "dressing up" at Ascot because of the high stakes involved in the tournament.

## Going Dutch

Brigitte Cuypers, the South African tennis professional, has been chosen to play for the Netherlands in the women's world team championship. She is a professional tennis player and has won several titles.

## Rugby Union

### Bath in a handsome light

By Alan Gibson  
Bath 24.—The city of Bath looked lovely yesterday evening, with the sun reflecting on the water of the Avon. The city is a beautiful one and is well worth a visit.

## Today's fixtures

League: 1st Division: Everton v. Stoke, Arsenal v. Ipswich, Manchester City v. Tottenham, Liverpool v. Newcastle, Chelsea v. Manchester United, West Ham v. Wolves, Nottingham Forest v. Derby, Aston Villa v. Leeds, Blackburn v. Sheffield Wednesday, Fulham v. Brighton, Cardiff v. Swansea, Millwall v. Luton, Barnsley v. Huddersfield, Middlesbrough v. Notts County, Peterborough v. Shrewsbury, Exeter v. Plymouth, Bournemouth v. Torquay, Walsley v. Grimsby, Luton v. Millwall, Huddersfield v. Barnsley, Notts County v. Peterborough, Shrewsbury v. Exeter, Torquay v. Bournemouth, Grimsby v. Walsley, Millwall v. Luton, Huddersfield v. Barnsley, Notts County v. Peterborough, Shrewsbury v. Exeter, Torquay v. Bournemouth, Grimsby v. Walsley.

## Equestrianism

### Nine nations in mamm entry for Badminton

By Pamela MacGregor-Morris  
There is a near-record entry of 101 from nine nations, for the Badminton horse trials, which take place in the Duke of Beaufort's glorious grounds at Badminton, near Stroud, Gloucestershire, in England. The trials are a major event in the equestrian calendar and attract riders from all over the world.

## Cricket

Lawson stands by to replace Lillee  
Lancashire, March 17.—The Australian cricket team, led by captain Allan Border, is expected to arrive in England tomorrow. The team is on tour and will play several matches during their stay.

## Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm)	Temp (C)	Wind	Conditions	Off	Run
Undermount	100	340	Good	Good	Good
Flaine	155	580	Good	Heavy	Good
La Plagne	230	430	Good	Crust	Good
Saize d'Oulx	90	165	Good	Varied	Good













# A 17 YEAR-OLD VOLVO AND TWO OF ITS CONTEMPORARIES.

The Volvo has an average life expectancy of 17.9 years.

According to the Swedish government, who keep records, that's longer than any other car.

Longer than Mercedes. Longer than Volkswagen.

In fact, in Sweden, 47% of the Volvos registered in 1961 are still on the road.

Which makes them nineteen years old.

Of course, not everyone wants to keep a car that long, but a car that's built to last seventeen years or more has certain short-term advantages, too.

Check the re-sale value of a 6-year old Volvo and you'll begin to see our point.

A Volvo that cost £2,155 new in 1974 can still command £2,050. (Parker's Car Price Guide.)

And as you'd expect, a car that's built to last is also built well.

Every weld on the Volvo's body is strong enough to support the weight of the entire car.

The zinc coating we use is about 4 times thicker than that used by many other car makers.

(Which means 4 times more protection from rust.)

Our bumpers can soak up 3 mph knocks without damage to the bodywork.

And every working day, we take engines at random from the production line and give them 7 hours bench testing at full loads.

We even use twin fan belts to halve the risk of being caught with a broken one.

Not surprisingly, in survey after survey, the Volvo emerges as one of the most trouble-free cars on the road.

So whether you plan to keep your car for 2 years or 17, no car will keep better than a Volvo.

Please send me the 1980 edition of 'Volvo Facts'  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**VOLVO. A CAR WITH STANDARDS.**



America is in a conservative mood, and this man is its natural standard bearer

# Who is afraid of Governor Ronald Reagan?

William Rees-Mogg, in Chicago,  
watches the Republican front runner  
who must persuade voters  
that he is not a second Goldwater

## US Elections



At 11.30 last Sunday morning I sat down to lunch at the Lancers Restaurant in Schaumburg, a drab and anonymous middle-class suburb to the west of Chicago. At my table were a number of youngish Americans, and a secret service man. The Americans had paid a minimum of \$100 per couple to attend. The speaker, and candidate in the Illinois primaries next Tuesday, was Governor Ronald Reagan.

I was sitting at a table next to the top table, and was able to observe Mr Reagan closely. He seemed perfectly fit. He does not look his age, which is 69; he has a good colour; he appears healthy and alert. When he rose to speak, he did so in a relaxed way, with none of that over-excitement which comes to many candidates in the heat and exhaustion of a campaign. His opening statement was rather flat; from my own experience, I judged that he had reached the stage of being slightly bored by his own speeches, a fatigue which comes to almost every candidate repeatedly on the same subjects in a short time.

After a short introduction, in which he criticized President Carter's counter-inflation programme, Mr Reagan moved straight to questions. He asked seven questions, though one was followed by tiresome and confused supplementaries. Three questions were on economics, two on politics, one was on a mixture of defence and economics, and one social.

I had expected Governor Reagan's style of answering questions to be skilful. He mixes humour in his replies, in a way that is comparatively rare in American politics. His actual jokes are fairly amusing, but sound as if he had made them before: "You can't rob Peter to pay Paul. We're all Pauls nowadays. Peter went bankrupt a long time ago." It is not too funny, and it does not

sound very new, but it helps to break up the seriousness of the reply. As well as the jokes, there is a self-deprecating irony which is pleasant. There were two points I had not expected. Even though questions can be foreseen, replies to questions cannot be made from cards, but have to come straight out of the candidate's mind. Governor Reagan's acting experience may make his replies deceptively agreeable, but the replies are clearly his own. He has a much better grasp of detail, and particularly of statistical detail, than I had supposed. He gave a thorough reply, for instance, to a question on the falling level of American savings.

He said that the rate of saving had been falling for 30 years, that the Japanese rate was no less than seven times the American, and the German three times. No doubt the subject has come up before, and he has a specific proposal to encourage savings, which is to exempt savings bank interest from income tax. Yet on this and other questions he showed a considerable precision of statement.

The other point which surprised me was that the questions and the answers were so similar to British experience. Energy, inflation, savings, defence, social service, are all questions which arise in British politics. The answers which Governor Reagan gave were also very much in line with British Conservative answers. On inflation, his first step would be to freeze new hiring of federal civil servants. He would reduce bureaucracy by transferring programmes back to the states. He believes in raising productivity by raising incentives. He wants to protect people who are being pushed into higher tax brackets by the inflationary process. He wants to move to a balanced budget. "Balancing a budget is

like protecting your virtue, you have to learn to say 'no'."

The general fear in Britain, and about two-thirds of the United States, is that Governor Reagan is some sort of wild extremist. On domestic policy he is no more, and no less, extreme than Mrs Thatcher, at least on the evidence of this meeting. Those who regard Mrs Thatcher as a dangerous extremist will, of course, regard Mr Reagan as one. But those who regard Mrs Thatcher's policy as a legitimate and rational Conservative option should, I think, take the same view of Governor Reagan. In foreign policy, he believes in peace through strength, and argues that Russian aggression has been encouraged by American defence weakness. That, too, is a view of the world not unlike Mrs Thatcher's.

There were indeed points at which his replies were moderate when he could have picked up a round of applause by taking a more sharply conservative line. He was asked about people on unemployment benefits who turn down the offer of jobs. He went into some detail to explain the welfare trap in which unemployed men, particularly with big families, can actually lose money if they take a job. He thought they could not be blamed for saying, "I can't afford to take a job, I can't afford to do this to my family." He blamed the system, not the individual.

I came away from the lunch somewhat about the prospect of a Reagan candidacy, which

whatever the outcome of the Illinois primary, is now nearly certain. In British terms Mr Reagan is an orthodox conservative, not particularly extreme, certainly not an intellectual, but a reasonable man, with an agreeable campaign style, humorous and probably rather warmer than most candidates. He is rather too defensive about minor points of criticism, and overdid his explanation of his experience as Governor of California. Whether his conservative policies can be made to work in the United States, or indeed whether Mrs Thatcher's will work in Britain, is still an open question.

On the Saturday morning I had been to a much more dramatic meeting, given in a large church, once a synagogue, on Chicago's South Side, the black area. The meeting was held by Mr Jesse Jackson, who was on the balcony with Martin Luther King when he was assassinated. His organization

is called "Push", and it is devoted to black self-advancement. He had invited Mr John Anderson to address it, and as a Republican candidate in the primaries. Mr Anderson may well win in Illinois, but saving a miracle he cannot get enough delegates to match Mr Reagan at the convention. The main speaker was the Vice-President, Mr Walter Mondale.

The warm-up speeches, mainly from black candidates, and the choir, including the South Side Catholic choir singing "Young, Gifted and Black", were very moving. It is impossible to attend such an occasion without great sympathy for the struggle of black people for their place in American society. Mr Jesse Jackson is himself a brilliant speaker, much given to exhortation. He is more moralistic, though, than most, and emphasized "the correlation between discipline and success" and said: "Do not give any politician your vote, he has not earned it." He wants to build up black electoral power to help black causes.

Mr Anderson did not seem to be winning many black votes. He is a strong speaker, in a preaching style, with a good voice and an emphatic manner. He failed, however, to reach a good relationship with his audience. He started with a long quotation from a black judge which implied that he was walking with destiny. It may be, but he is a white man, and I much preferred

Governor Reagan's rueful approach to his own candidacy to Mr Anderson's apparent belief that he has God as his campaign manager. It seemed the 2,000 blacks felt some of the same reservations. Mr Anderson was warmly applauded when he stood up, and hardly applauded at all when he sat down. "A new politics," he said, "is struggling to be born." Perhaps it is.

Vice-President Mondale was a very different and much more sympathetic speaker. He reminded one of a younger Hubert Humphrey, who came from the same state, Minnesota, and was indeed his first political patron. The President's rose-garden strategy has kept the President in the rose garden and sent out the Vice-President to battle for them both in the primaries. He has done so well that Kennedy or no Kennedy, he must himself be a very strong prospect for the Democratic nomination in 1984.

Mr Mondale made specific claims to his audience. He said that President Carter has, he said, appointed more black judges than all previous presidents put together. He went on to make more idealistic claims, including one in which, I think, there is some truth. "The United States was seen as a cynical, uncaring, manipulative nation—that has been turned around." It seems to me that President Carter is indeed seen as an idealist by the rest of the world. When Mr Mondale went on to say, "We have experienced and compassionate leadership, leadership that has proven itself," the word "compassionate" rang true, the word "proven" did not.

In today's Illinois primaries, Mr Anderson should do well: he attracts independents and the young, and he is the local candidate. That will not prevent Governor Reagan reaching the Republican convention with



in all probability, a handsome surplus of votes over the bare majority required to nominate. That is the arithmetical truth which former President Ford recognized in deciding not to enter the race.

President Carter will almost certainly win the Democratic primary in Illinois, though the inflation policy is not popular, and Senator Kennedy seems to be recovering support in the final days. It is still theoretically possible for Senator Kennedy to win the nomination, but he is not trusted, even by those who share his views, and President Carter will probably win. A Carter-Reagan race is therefore nearly a certainty.

To win, President Carter has to retain the confidence he still enjoys, but he has to do that in the face of rising inflation and rising interest rates, undoubtedly a most damaging economic record. At present he would still win, for he would still carry the industrial heartland of the midwest and east of America, as well as most of his native south. He also still has the benefit of national unity over the Tehran hostages. To win, Governor Reagan has to persuade the electors of the

heartland that he, second Goldwater, is not to be feared, but a responsible conservative is a conservative, and he is a standard-bearer.

I do not know if he came the fear the he When I was in the California and Utah, that Mr Reagan was a romantic hero, but supported on his own views, and was not by his political opponents. I found a shift of view. To a President Carter, who does indeed seem a man. As one Iowa said to me: "I think the worst president in but don't think I c for Reagan." I would not be so President Carter's race is a mixed one, but am not afraid of Mr R seems a perfectly noi of conservative to nation, however, will decided on whether, I more angry at the Car or afraid of the Reag

Clothing grants for children and help with fuel bills for about 10,000 pensioners and disabled people will be withdrawn this November unless the Government announces changes today when the Social Security Bill has its report stage in the Commons.

Those are some of the changes proposed under the Bill as it stands. The aim is to reduce substantially the amount of discretion in the supplementary benefits scheme, which has led to exceptional needs payments becoming so common that they can no longer be reasonably described as "exceptional".

For example, 370,000 such payments were made in 1966, or 13 per cent of the total number of cases on the supplementary benefits books. By 1975, the number of payments had increased to 945,000 and the proportion to 34 per cent. Last year, there were 1,199,000 payments.

This dramatic growth reflects partly the accepted fact that supplementary benefit rates are too low to allow people depending on them for long periods to save enough to replace major items, such as furniture, clothing for growing children, and household equipment. But it also reflects pressure from the poverty lobby to extend discretionary payments.

Because social security staff have total discretion in awarding or refusing exceptional needs payments, wide variations have grown up in different areas. Officers in Glasgow and other industrial cities with large

## Fears of cuts in special grants

working class populations are more likely to be generous than those dealing with a much more mixed population.

The Supplementary Benefits Commission, which is being abolished by the Bill, believes that the growing use of discretion has led to considerable difficulties for local staff in discriminating between cases without using moral judgments.

The Bill proposes that exceptional needs payments will be governed by strict regulations, which are still being drafted. Although Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, has indicated that final decisions on grants for clothing and shoes have not yet been made, the areas the regulations will cover suggest that they will be severely restricted. The Child Poverty Action Group, which points out today that 392,000 payments were made for clothing and shoes in 1978, is urging the Government to consult widely before finalizing the new regulations. At present the Government proposes to stop making exceptional needs payments to people

not receiving supplementary benefits. That, however, might be considered too drastic a change, particularly when a significant number of disabled people and pensioners now receive the payments although they do not draw supplementary benefit.

Both groups are, in fact, entitled to supplementary benefit but instead claim other benefits. They include a large number of retirement pensioners who are better off claiming rent and rate rebates on top of their pensions, instead of supplementary benefit. There are also a number of disabled or chronically sick people claiming invalidity pensions, whose rates are above the basic supplementary benefit level, but below the long term rate which will be paid after one year instead of two under the terms of the Bill.

About 10,000 elderly and disabled people would lose any right to needs payments unless the Government decides to change the Bill. The review of the supplementary benefits scheme recommended that payments should be limited to people entitled to benefit, instead of to anyone not in full time work, as at present. But the Bill proposed a tighter restriction: to those actually receiving supplementary benefit.

The Supplementary Benefits Commission, which is being abolished, has a long history of change from a totally discretionary system to one operating on precise regulations is not an attempt to cut the number of exceptional needs payments. There is no provision for saving on them in the financial memorandum to the Bill.

But the CPAG and other groups fear that a cut is precisely what will result if the regulations are drawn up with no outside advice. They will be taking part in a lobby at the Commons today organized by the National Campaign Against Social Security Cuts.

Pat Healy  
Social Services Correspondent

## All in a day's work for KLM.

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## Nourishing food for thought

I must admit that when I received an invitation to meet the Venezuelan Minister of State for the Development of Human Intelligence at the House of Commons last Friday, my first reaction was that someone was playing a joke.

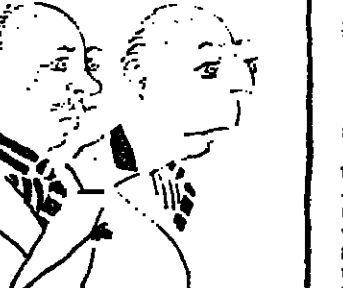
In fact, Dr Luis Machado, a cabinet minister in the Christian Democratic government which came to power last year, is a serious and committed politician who believes that human intelligence is the world's most important, and under-exploited, natural resource.

In his words: "If it is possible to develop everyone's intelligence systematically, and I am convinced that it is possible, then we have the biggest reserve in the world. Understanding of science is then no longer the privilege of a minority but the right of all."

Dr Machado is in London to publicise the English translation of his book, *The Right to be Intelligent*, which is being published by Sir Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press. In the book he argues strongly that intelligence is not a matter of heredity and can only be developed through education.

In his year in office, he has made an impressive start on practising what he preaches. Mothers of new-born babies, members of the armed forces

and public service workers in Venezuela are all now receiving lessons in developing their intelligence. Dr Machado has also succeeded in getting the right to think added to the United Nations charter of human rights.



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## Hats off

The photograph below, which shows Miss Susan Charman, an undergraduate at St Hugh's College, chronicles a small revolution that has just taken place at Oxford. It is only in the last three weeks that female members of the university have been allowed to discard their traditional soft caps (described by Miss Charman as "like dead pancakes") and wear mortar boards.



Susan Charman, mortar board pioneer

The decision to change the rules about academic headgear has been taken because Oxford is about to have its first female proctor, Miss Theodora Cooper, also from St Hugh's. As all Oxonians know the main function of proctors is constantly to doff their caps at degree ceremonies. Realizing the difficulties of doffing dead pancakes, the Vice-Chancellor has decreed that Miss Cooper and all others of her sex may now wear mor-

tar boards, or square caps as they are technically described, on all formal academic occasions.

Miss Charman, who is in her second year, is delighted by the ruling and is looking forward to wearing her mortar board when she takes her final examinations next year. She ought to be warned, however, that in his official announcement the Vice-Chancellor made clear that female members of the university would be expected "to observe the customs associated with the wearing of soft caps," an ominous phrase which baffles both me and the university's information officer.

At Cambridge, women have had the right to wear mortar boards for a long time, but they are seldom seen on the heads of undergraduates. Unlike at Oxford, students are not required to dress up in *sub fusc* to take exams, and at degree ceremonies they are simply told to carry their caps by their left sides.

They still take sartorial matters seriously in the Fens, however. Apparently if any girl is spotted at a degree ceremony without her cap or wearing improper attire like boots, the praefectus of her college has to offer a bottle of port to the proctors.

Reassuring news from our Scottish correspondent. The Royal Navy diving team investigating reports that the waters around Sullis Voe oil terminal in Shetland might conceal

unexploded wartime bombs have surfaced with more than a ton of old beer tins, a pair and a bag of cement.

During the war Sullis was a base for RAF boats. One aircraft which was at its moorings was shot down. It was armed with 250 lb bombs. When that known, other wartime time the Voe surfaced and a team led by Lieutenant Commander John Belchamber to investigate. They located sunken flying boat but a home.

Hardly were their suits dry, however, when shipping off Shetland alerted to look out for a on the loose which had spotted by a trawler. Shetland tracked down the explosive and found it was a harmless pr model.

No one is watching the Monday evening comedy. Yes Minister more attention than Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the Civil Service Department. Every morning, I am reliably informed, he delights his officials by referring to the name of the permanent secretary as "Department of Administration Affairs, around whose realm with his new minister series is based."

Ian Brad

## LONDON DIARY

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THE TIMES

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## D FOR ZIMBABWE

James has very properly put Zimbabwe's needs before Lord Carrington, the British Government, is a national feeling that Mr Mugabe's conciliatory and communalist decision upon taking up the truce, Britain should be generous upon a scale which would ensure that Zimbabwe's social changes may be achieved by the new regime. The strategy is sound, but is economically and politically in no position to put large sums involved or more than a modest contribution to an international effort. It is here at stake, and it is not to understand the and processes involved. The first aid that a war-torn country requires in the late aftermath, it is technical. Having spent 30 million on training in which has enabled the s of Zimbabwe to choose, and so end the civil war is unquestionably right. Britain should agree to its personnel and experience the one-way because success in so will obviate any immediate of another conflict break; the army is to symbolize national unity on a new basis. Zimbabwe army is also a premium. So this is a investment. The new army

as a peacetime establishment may need some new equipment, but the country is awash with arms, and presumably there is no intention to prepare it for anything more than a defensive and security role. First aid is needed to achieve two other desiderata. One is the resettlement of the refugees from the war on their old, or on new, farmland. This is a matter, in terms of external aid, of transport, housing, medical aid, and other ingredients of normal and well-understood "disaster aid". Britain can afford to supply personnel and finance some supplies for this purpose.

The other need, and it is urgent, is the provision of employment. Continued large-scale unemployment will be destabilizing and prolong the banditry. Mr Mugabe must find jobs for his party henchmen and for those of his warriors who do not stay in the new army; he will have to cut into white employment in some sectors to do so. But as he will be aware, most of the unemployed have to be absorbed by reviving industry, manufacturing, mining, commerce and commercial (cash crop) agriculture.

It is difficult to see how Britain can assist very far in this latter project. There will be talk of investment, standby credits, and international loans. What this amounts to is underwriting Zimbabwe's budgetary deficit, and balance of payments deficit, until the country is paying its

way—which inherently it is capable of doing. But the sum involved is not yet known, though the aid mission which Sir Ian Gilmore promises may identify it. It is sure to be beyond Britain's ability to meet single-handedly: it amounts to paying for those of Zimbabwe's urgent imports which Zimbabwe cannot pay for—and even if Britain put up all or some of the money to finance such "unrequited exports", it is doubtful if British industry could supply all the equipment. To put up British foreign exchange to enable Zimbabwe to buy elsewhere simply adds to our present difficulties—and inflation. The days when we could subsidize an economy like Malawi's, even, are over.

Mr Mugabe has shown his sensitivity to Zimbabwe's credit rating by promising to service its legitimate debts. He is wise, for the only source of sizable standby credits and soft loans would seem to be from the international institutions, at least initially. Whether they can move fast enough is a question. It is no part of Britain's obligations to guarantee those bonds which during UDI became speculative counters. What is needed is a swift practical analysis, and an international programme based on it. And here Britain, which had primary responsibility for the constitutional moves to bring Zimbabwe into being, can play a leading diplomatic role in organizing support for its economy.

## Propaganda and the Olympics

From Mr Arthur Koestler

Sir, May I suggest that the BBC show one of the excellent filmed reports of the 1936 Nazi Olympic in Berlin for the benefit of those innocents who still maintain that sporting events have no political propaganda value.

Yours,  
ARTHUR KOESTLER,  
8 Montpelier Square, SW7,  
March 14.

From Professor Sir Cecil Parrott

Sir, Some of your readers may not be aware that the Eastern European press gives wide coverage daily to the protests made by some Western Olympic athletes or officials against the proposed boycott. It is even claimed that in some cases dissenting athletes have deliberately sent copies of their letters or articles to the Soviet press itself. Thus through-out Eastern Europe such athletes have become unwittingly—and I fear sometimes wittingly—front-line runners in propaganda for the Soviet Union and everything hateful connected with it in an area where the inhabitants live in a state of subjugation to it.

Yours faithfully,  
CECIL PARROTT,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Abbeystead,  
Leicester,  
March 13.

From Mr John A. Murphy

Sir, Prior to the last general election, Prime Minister-elect Thatcher was telling us that freedom of choice for the individual was an essential of the British way of life. I presume this is still the same today, with the exception of those potential Olympic athletes and Olympic travellers who happen to be employed by the Civil Service or the Armed Forces.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN A. MURPHY,  
73 Elm Drive,  
North Harrow,  
Middlesex,  
March 12.

From Mr J. M. Bouise

Sir, The athletes in favour of participating in the Moscow Olympic Games, the British Government's dissidents.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. BOUISE,  
32 Blackhall Place,  
Cowley,  
Oxford,  
March 12.

## Christians in Africa

From the Bishop of London and others

Sir, We have heard with distress and surprise that Bishop Desmond Tutu's passport has been withdrawn by the South African authorities, and we would like to know why.

He is known to each of us; he is highly respected internationally as a man of integrity.

An act of this sort can only damage the South African Government's standing in the world, and particularly among Christians in England where Bishop Tutu is so well known.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD LONDON, DAVIN LIVERPOOL,  
ROBERT ABBOTT, STANLEY  
ROBERT BILEY, WINCHESTER,  
RONALD BROWNIE, WARRICK,  
CHRISTOPHER EVANS, JIMMY NORVICK,  
LONDON HOUSE, GLOUCESTER,  
DAVID GULFORD, PARLINDER,  
ROBERT HARRIS, STEPHEN REPTON,  
ELIZABETH, NERVYN  
DUNSTON, JOHN PARKER,  
MARTIN KENYON, HANNAH STANTON,  
LUCYDA LAMBERT, JOHN WINTON,  
KENNETH LUCIFIELD,  
LONDON HOUSE,  
Barton Street,  
Westminster, SW1,  
March 17.

## Islamic Cultural Centre

From the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt

Sir, David Watts' report "London Muslims in bitter dispute", published on February 18, has given the wrong impression and distorted the image of a distinguished Egyptian theologian and religious scholar, by name Dr Zaki Badawi, the Director of the Islamic Cultural Centre in London.

Furthermore, it has done some damage to the reputation of the Egyptian theologians and Imams who are working with him at the centre, if not to the Egyptian religious scholars in general. It is this fact which has impelled the Egyptian religious scholars and Imams working at the centre to call on me to clarify any confusion which might have arisen as a result of Mr Watts' report, in the minds of The Times' readers who are interested in Islam.

Dr Badawi combines a distinguished and varied qualification with a rich experience which has made him keenly aware of the position of Muslims not only in the Arab world but also in Asia and Africa. When Egypt proposed the name of Dr Badawi to run the centre, his proposal was unanimously approved by the Council of Muslim Ambassadors in London. In choosing Dr Badawi and his Egyptian colleagues at the centre, Egypt aimed at serving the cause of Islam and meeting the religious requirements of a large Muslim community who fortunately enjoy full freedom of worship in a country which has a rare and well known record of tolerance at all levels.

Egypt is a founder member of the centre and it played the principal role in setting it up as a religious establishment subject to British laws. She still maintains her ownership of the land on which the centre was built in Regent's Lodge, Egypt, which has provided the centre with religious Imams since its inception, will continue its support to the centre. She will always endeavour to help the centre to steer away from any political currents or any subsidiary matters which would deflect it from fulfilling its noble task in the service of the Muslim community in the United Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,  
H. ABU-SEIDA,  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt,  
26 South Street, W1.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## BBC cuts: a question of priorities

From Professor Angus McIntosh

Sir, For years now I have watched with admiration the profoundly important and growing contribution made by BBC Scotland through its television and radio school programmes. Some measure of the "official" reception to these of them by local educational authorities, one result of which is that Scottish schools are now probably the best equipped in the world to receive and record such things. Teachers themselves have freely acknowledged the great value of having these programmes at their professional disposal.

The schools programme offers a wealth of programmes which have created as nothing else could an increased awareness of Scotland, its history and traditions, its literature and music, its languages and ways of speech. This has influenced not only children but teachers, and not only teachers but many thousands of others in Scotland, to say nothing of all those Scots in England and overseas to whom these things lie near the heart.

It is therefore with alarm that I now learn that BBC Scotland proposes to cut a month to cut by 25 per cent the modest 2 per cent of its resources at present allocated to these programmes and with total incredulity that it intends a year later to cease to fund them at all, in contravention of the BBC charter itself.

Can it be that, though I have tried to obtain the true facts, I have been wilfully misled? If not, I should be glad to hear along with your many Scottish readers everywhere, to say nothing of all others who care about education, some explanation of these unbelievable proposals. I hope that the Board of Governors will inform us (a) why BBC Scotland is, as it would appear, uniquely singled out for the withdrawal of funds for schools broadcasting of its own creation, and (b) why these plans have been made. I am told without consultation with the Schools Broadcasting Councils and against their views.

I shall be delighted if it turns out that, beneath their gruff exterior, these latter-day hammers of the Scots have some better alternative educational programme in mind about which they are too modest to say anything. If it is not so, the disastrous long-term results do not bear thinking about.

Yours faithfully,  
ANGUS MCINTOSH,  
32 Blackhall Place,  
Edinburgh,  
March 7.

From Mr Melvyn Bragg

Sir, The cuts which the BBC feels obliged to make are clearly harmful to interests—especially in music and education—which, ironically, it has served so well. The crucial point to be made however is not whether one cut is more valid than another but whether any of them should be necessary.

The cuts are being made because the BBC's licence fee has been allowed to lag behind its requirements. For over 50 years this unique method of funding—as enabled the BBC to be popular, authoritative and of broadcasting of quality programmes. Yet, ignoring all this, ignoring the fact that the public

## London medical schools

From Professor G. P. Lewis

Sir, I feel compelled to make an immediate response to the report of the Flowers committee on London medical education.

I am appalled at the suggestion in the report that the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences should be expelled from the university and that the established university staff should be made to relinquish their university status. What is worse is that no reason is given for suggesting the unprecedented step of expelling the university staff of over 50 university staff at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences.

It is unlikely that the reason for the recommendation could be poor academic performance. The Institute can show an excellent research record over its 29 years. Three members have been elected to the Royal Society during that time. The work of the institute has been internationally recognized in the fields of inflammation, arthritis, arterial thrombosis and asthma. Last Friday (March 7), the BBC reported on television and radio the results of experiments carried out here at the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences in collaboration with Imperial College, which have led to the latest breakthrough in the development of therapeutic agents to counteract asthma. To destroy an institute which is so productive of high quality research simply because it does not fit into a theoretical geographical pattern would not only be unjust but would be in direct conflict with one of the principles of a university, to encourage the development of original research.

It also seems unlikely that the reason for the committee's recommendation is financial. The Institute of Basic Medical Sciences share of the University Grants Committee money appropriated to London University, about £150m, is small (at present about £400,000; planned to

## Out in the open

From Mr Martin Smith

Sir, Your reporter, Peter Hennessy (March 13), has revealed the contents of a confidential document prepared for the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDCS) on open government, drafted by a team of three under the chairmanship of Mr Stephen Linstead. This report finds that the "Civil Service could probably live with a freedom of information Act without too much difficulty."

Commenting on the FDCS's decision not to make this document more widely available, Mr John Ward, the association's general secretary, is reported as saying that "it was not a subject of overriding interest to members at the moment, as they are primarily concerned with pay and pensions".

What a despicable "overriding interest" of FDCS members, who are public servants, might be, there can be

seems to mind very little if the licence fee is raised, and ignoring the large place which television particularly has in the leisure of the majority in this country—successive governments have let the fee dwindle. Now it is inadequate and cuts must be made. Moreover, as it is dependent on Government's fancy, the ever-present political and party pressure must find a less sure target in a dependent corporation. Richness and variety are threatened, therefore, and so is independence. All for want of a sensible increase in the fee and a proper independent body which would take it out of politics.

The licence fee holds the solution to the BBC's future. All the very understandable regret and resentment at the cuts would do well to focus on that—for by bringing the licence fee into line with needs and ensuring it stays there—all that is being cut now could be recovered. Yours sincerely,

MELVYN BRAGG,  
12 Hampstead Hill Gardens, NW3.

From Mr M. Wenner

Sir, As one of the ten million listeners to the "evening" and "trash" Radio One, I feel that I should clear up a few of the misconceptions already recently on this page by Raymond Fischer (March 5).

One of his suggestions was that Radio 1 and 2 should be amalgamated. This is a suggestion which is rendered impossible by the fact that the two stations are as different as a Mozart quintet and The Archers: a difference which I am sure Mr Fischer will appreciate.

Radio 1 plays a vital role in the culture of this country by enabling new, young British bands to play sessions or live tracks to a large, non-regionalized audience, which, by its very nature, is local and stations are not able to do, even if they had the resources. Rock and pop music is one of the few fields in which this country still influences the rest of the world. For example, at this very moment, a record by a British group is at the top of the American charts, while last year Elton John had a sell-out tour in the USSR. For this to continue, it is essential that there is national coverage of new trends in music.

Another point I would like to make is that there is precious little done nowadays to provide cultural facilities specifically for the great majority of young people who are not "into" Mozart, Dvořák or bingo. Here in Scotland there is only one venue at which major bands regularly play concerts, and an evening performance which I have attended over the past four years, all 3,000 seats were sold and crowds were standing outside, often for hours, in an attempt to buy tickets for standing room. And yet, while cultural facilities for adults receive huge subsidies from the taxpayer (£3,000 in the case of the Glasgow King's Theatre), the Glasgow Apollo is under threat of closure because the owners are not making a profit.

I do not expect Mr Raymond Fischer to appreciate our music, but please leave us the few opportunities we have to listen to it.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN WEAVER,  
16 Ravelston Road,  
Bearsden,  
Glasgow.

## Sessions in the smoke-filled rooms

From Sir Reginald Bennet

Sir, I still have by me David Wood's great article on the "smoke-filled rooms" of Blackpool in October 1963. His article of today (March 10) contains much of the story of the manoeuvrings in the Macmillan succession, tortuous as they were.

My own part, to which he refers, was to act as Macleod's eyes and ears and, in the smoke-filled room, buster of those "long thin scotchies". Perhaps I might amplify from my own activities, or rather passivities.

But this broke, as intended, on the evening of our arrival at Blackpool. There was a bizarre hunt through the town for my boss, who was due to address the Conservative agents. From that moment the tension mounted.

On the Wednesday Muriel Bowen told me that her interview for the candidature at Morecombe and Lonsdale had suddenly been put off. Taking this with Randolph Churchill's precipitate return from the United States to lead the "Quintin" campaign, it seemed clear that Lord Hailsham was going to renounce his title and throw his hat in the ring.

So he did. But it soon became clear that Rab Butler's supporters and Quintin's were each able to stop the other, yet insufficient to prevent themselves. So there was a deadlock.

At about this time I began to hear talk of Alec Home; sporadically at first but then with increasing insistence. I reported this to him. "There's a devil, Home, and he's coming up the rail fast."

"Who?"

"Alec."

"Don't talk nonsense."

"I'm not inventing this. I'm hearing it everywhere. I assure you."

"Absolute rot; it's not a possibility."

"But it's being said."

"Quite impossible. I have heard him affirm categorically that he was not a candidate."

"Maybe he isn't, or wasn't; but that doesn't say that he hasn't been drafted."

And so it happened. Iain had certainly been told, by me at least, but he was quite unprepared to believe it.

More and more the reports came in, and soon he and Reggie Maudling, partners in a non-aggression pact, simply had to take them seriously. Then followed the "smoke-filled room" session. The rest is history—or will be if enough of the dwindling band of survivors reveal their knowledge in time.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Faithfully yours,

REGINALD BENNETT,  
37 Cottingham Court, W8,  
March 13.

## The welfare of the world

From Mr Kyril Tiddmarsh

Sir, Mr Edward Heath's argument about the lessons of Afghanistan and Turkey (March 12) is sound and now familiar.

By reacting rather than acting and by giving too little, the industrialized countries too often failed to help remedy the poverty and underdevelopment which are the root cause of instability in so many developing countries. However, there is another point.

It is not only a question of inadequate growth and insufficient aid in dollar or sterling terms. The £1m of British aid to Afghanistan may indeed have been little for a country with a per capita income of £40 a year. But apart from more economic aid there is also the need to encourage developing countries to tackle those glaring inequalities between rich and poor which are probable cause of destabilization. The inadequacy of economic development.

This kind of advice from the North is often painful. But crudely, it means telling the "haves" of the South, before it is too late, to distribute their wealth in "have-nots" and to permit them to participate more in providing for their own needs. It does not help to make friends among those who wield the reins of power and wealth. Nonetheless such good counsel and encouragement are needed to help the "have-nots" to rise above their poverty. The Times of December 27 last year published in the midst of the well-known events, argued, "economic growth is important in meeting basic human needs—but not all-important. The question is more complex than that. Given the right priorities, poor countries can make progress in meeting non-material needs such as health education and participation right now. There is no reason to wait for significant economic growth before acting." It was a relevant point, echoing an International Labour Organization study, but made somewhat late in the day.

Yours faithfully,

KYRIL TIDDMARSH,  
Villa Maigre Tour,  
1295 Miles,  
Switzerland,  
March 14.

## Everest high-fliers

From Lord Hunt

Sir, In your newspaper today (March 11) my friend Dr Charles Warren asks what is the greatest altitude at which a bird has been seen. Since the context of his question was the current correspondence about victims of Everest, it may be of personal interest in your readers' recall that, while members of the 1933 expedition were on the South Col in 1953 at about 8,000 metres, we were visited by a single chough, doubtless in search of food. I remember that this bird strutted around our tents with his beak wide open, presumably because, like ourselves, he (or she—for the sexes are identical) was suffering from anoxia.

Sir Edmund Hillary reported having seen a flock of small birds crossing the summit ridge of Everest as we went over 8,500 metres.

Yours truly,

JOHN HUNT,  
Royal Geographical Society,  
Kensington Gore, SW7,  
March 11.

## CARTER'S ATTACK ON INFLATION

President Carter's package of economic measures are aimed at price stability within the United States rather than in the foreign exchange market of the dollar. Yet it is in foreign exchange markets they have received their first welcome. The dollar lay continued the advance foreign exchange markets it has been making in recent years. Yet in New York the judgment seems to have been of some caution.

Views are right. The latest measures are likely to their most immediate impact on the international scene, they should make a contribution to the down of world inflation. In impact on the American economy is likely to be limited to appear. It is under the States who have been dis-

by the apparent unwillingness of the Carter Administration to the defeat of inflation as one of its priorities should proof that a corner has been turned.

should not blind us to the fact that President Carter at least seem to have restored some of the balance and at the worth of the dollar, most immediate impact of measures will be to

## R BACKING FOR THE ARTS

the climate of the times. John Stevens has done well Arts Council. The level assigned to it in the year approximately off the general increase in income. In practice, the grant effect of a small cut in the council begins the year with larger outgoings commitments than usual a mid-season cut in this grant made by the present government on taking office), cause there is little scope for saving in man-

the head under which rise fastest. Like many a union, the council was put about last year that it needed more than 20 per cent level in real terms to meet the outcome must cause relief than disappointment.

ouncing the grant, Mr Stevens urged commercial its to do more to patronize a Sponsorship has been an singly valuable source of in recent years. But in ure it is an unpredictable regular aid, and tends to ly to the more dignified of activity. In aggregate, never likely to amount to than a small proportion of

public support, itself now in Britain compared to most similar countries. Some sections of the Conservative Party have doubts about the very idea of state support for an aesthetic quango, but the council's administrative costs are low (at the per cent of the total), and its unduly elaborate structure of advisory committees has recently undergone drastic pruning.

The award will allow the council to continue its operations in much the same way as at present, though some enterprises which have been just struggling along with its support will no doubt fail to survive another year. Some observers may be disappointed that the award does not force the council to make the kind of harsh reappraisal of obligations that major cuts would require. Ever since its inception it has been criticized for lacking a policy, in the sense of a distinct idea of what kind of art it exists to promote. These criticisms are often linked, to calls for greater democracy in its affairs, by which is usually meant either more influence for vested interests, such as poets and actors, or for more or less political interests, such as the trade unions.

These conflicting pressures make uncertainty and poor morale the normal condition of the council's staff. Should they try to be less elitist, and further reduce their spending (now about a third of the total) on the big national musical and theatrical institutions? Or should they foster the metropolitan best and let the regions look after themselves? Should they respect popular taste and restrict their already small share of their support that goes to experimental work? Financial stringency almost inevitably imposes a move away from experiment: already the council has decided to replace a series of concerts of modern music at the Royal Festival Hall this spring with a more familiar programme. But in fact the diversity of the Arts Council's patronage is a sign of good health. In our own time more than any other, there is no common agreement about the right form, for the arts or the right manner in which they should make contact with everyday life. A council that is not dominated by any particular interest and backs the horses it fancies as far as a tight budget permits, probably serves as well as any.

At a time when some of the largest manufacturing firms in Edinburgh are warning that substantial increases in the rates may curtail their plans for expansion it may be optimistic to suppose that Professor Chisholm's suggestion would encourage the economic regeneration of inner city areas. On the other hand, it may not be possible for authorities such as Glasgow to accelerate their housing redevelopment plans in order to avoid the tax without exposing some of the city's peripheral housing estates to even greater problems of underoccupation and dereliction than they face at present.

Rather than encourage any further growth of tax collecting should local authorities not cut the costs of redevelopment by giving away their land to those who are prepared to accept the challenge of moving back into our urban wastelands?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW H. DAWSON,  
Department of Geography,  
The University,  
St Andrews,  
March 6.

system in which any kind of organization is restricted by anything more than the basic rules of a plural society?

Surely a more sensible idea would be to put all religious organizations on the same legal basis as each other and as all other organizations. Then truth and falsehood could last grapple in a free and open encounter.

NICOLAS WALTER,  
Realist Press Association,  
88 Islington High Street, N1.

Derelict land

From Dr Andrew H. Dawson

Sir, Professor Chisholm has drawn attention again (March 5) to the empty land in our cities. He proposes that owners of such land should be taxed and thus encouraged to redevelop it.

Would this be effective? Much of the land belongs to local authorities and in some cities most of it falls in this category. It is likely that any tax on such authorities would be passed immediately to the

taxpayers. At a time when some of the largest manufacturing firms in Edinburgh are warning that substantial increases in the rates may curtail their plans for expansion it may be optimistic to suppose that Professor Chisholm's suggestion would encourage the economic regeneration of inner city areas. On the other hand, it may not be possible for authorities such as Glasgow to accelerate their housing redevelopment plans in order to avoid the tax without exposing some of the city's peripheral housing estates to even greater problems of underoccupation and dereliction than they face at present.

Rather than encourage any further growth of tax collecting should local authorities not cut the costs of redevelopment by giving away their land to those who are prepared to accept the challenge of moving back into our urban wastelands?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW H. DAWSON,  
Department of Geography,  
The University,  
St Andrews,  
March 6.

action of souls

Mr Nicolas Walker

but Religious Affairs Committee contrast proselytizing cults unfavourably with established churches and denominations. Various ways of the former under the of the latter (March 10).

most outsiders, the only ant difference between the ends of religious organization some are new and small and others are old and large; any outsiders, the latter do more harm than the

through, their great-ness, morality and law.

for everyone, any proposal for the activity of minority organizations should be as an attempt to restore the balance between church and state, and (irreligious) in this country for most of the time which was weakened by centuries of bitter struggle, really want to go back to a



Law Report March 17 1980

## Guidelines on recommending deportation

Regina v Nazari and Others

Guidelines were laid down by the Court of Appeal for courts when making recommendations for deportation under section 6 of the Immigration Act, 1971. The court was giving judgment on appeals against sentence by four immigrants who had been convicted of, or had pleaded guilty to, offences committed in the United Kingdom, and whose sentences included a recommendation for deportation.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON, who was sitting with Mr Justice Byrne and Mr Justice Croom, said that the main submission on behalf of Fakhri Nazari, an Iranian student sentenced for being concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on importing opium was that if he were sent back to Iran he might have to face a court which would have jurisdiction to pass a death sentence upon him.

Rohan Dissanayake had pleaded guilty to manslaughter by reason of diminished responsibility to an indictment charging murder, and had been sentenced to five years. Joseph Fernandez, sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for conspiracy to rob and aggravated burglary, was Spanish, but he and his wife had lived in this country for many years. Although his record was not good, he was not a member of the criminal classes. He was a hard working man. His son, who had been born here, was a good English boy, and he went to English schools. The court was satisfied

that if he were deported his wife would face a grave dilemma: whether to follow him to Spain, or remain in England where the children's future looked brighter. The general principle was laid down by Lord Justice Sachs in *R v Caird* (1970) 54 Cr App Rep 499, 510: "... there was also a recommendation for deportation on the question for the court is whether the potential detriment to this country of (the appellant) remaining here has been shown to be such as to justify the recommendation. (The court) desires to emphasise that the courts when considering a recommendation for deportation are normally concerned simply with the crime concerned and the individual's past record and the question as to what is their effect on the question of potential detriment just mentioned."

In their Lordships' judgment Parliament intended by section 6(1) and (2) that a proper and full inquiry should take place before a recommendation was made which was likely to result in a deportation order. It would be advisable for judges specifically to invite submissions on the question of deportation where there was the possibility that a recommendation would be made. It was not enough merely to add a sentence to a judgment.

The guidelines the court would give were not rigid rules of law; there might be exceptions depending on the evidence. Firstly, the court must con-

sider, as was said in *Caird's* case, whether a recommendation was justified by the potential detriment to the country of the continued presence of an offender. The United Kingdom had no use for criminals of other nations, particularly if they had committed serious crimes, or had long criminal records. The more serious the crime, or the longer the record, the more obvious it was that a recommendation should be made. On the other hand, a minor offence should not justify a recommendation, for example shoplifting. But, for the purpose of stressing that all the circumstances should be looked at, a series of offences might turn a minor matter into something which would justify the making of a recommendation, and even a first offence of shoplifting might justify deportation if a gang were involved who intended carrying out planned raids on department stores.

Secondly, the courts were not concerned with the political systems in operation in other countries. The court had no knowledge of the matters, and it would be wholly undesirable if any court expressed its views of regimes prevailing in other countries. It was for the Home Secretary to decide whether returning an offender to his country of origin would have unduly harsh consequences.

As to Nazari, it might be that the regime in Iran would be unfair to him. Whether that would continue to be so, the court had no

way of knowing. When the time came for him to be released, the court was sure that the Home Secretary would be in mind the very matters the court was concerned should be considered, namely, whether it would be unduly harsh to send him back to Iran.

In the case of a short sentence, however, a court might have to make up its mind whether to make a recommendation, and if it were satisfied, on the evidence, that it would be unduly harsh to return an offender to his country of origin, then the court might feel impelled, in fairness to the accused, not to recommend deportation. That would depend on the evidence and the circumstances. Again, it was not a rigid rule, but in general, political considerations were inappropriate considerations for the courts.

Finally, it was proper for the court to consider the effect of a recommendation for deportation upon others not before the court. The courts had no wish to break up families or to impose hardships upon those innocent of crimes. The case of Fernandez illustrated that clearly. His wife was a credit to herself and a good citizen of this country. If her husband were deported, she would have a hard choice to make in the light of these considerations; the court would quash the recommendation for deportation. In other appeals against the recommendations would be dismissed.

## Law Society indemnity scheme not invalid

Swain and Another v Law Society

Before Mr Justice Stode. Section 37 of the Solicitors Act, 1974, empowers the Council of the Law Society to make rules requiring the society to take out and maintain insurance with authorized insurers on behalf of solicitors, and the Solicitors Indemnity Rules, 1975-1979, under which the Solicitors Indemnity Insurance scheme was introduced, were not invalid.

The society was not bound to account to either of the plaintiffs, Mr James Midwood Swain and Mr Alan Stephen McLaren, two practising solicitors, for any part of the commission received by it or by its subsidiary, Law Society Services Ltd, in respect of premiums paid by individual solicitors pursuant to the scheme. Since the action was not representative, the judge declined to make a declaration that the Solicitors Indemnity Rules were valid or a wider declaration in respect of the commission received from premiums paid.

Mr Leonard Lewis, QC, and Mr Martin Roth for the plaintiffs; Mr Robert Alexander, QC, and Mr Patrick Phillips for the Law Society.

HIS LORDSHIP said that until 1975 there was no general insurance scheme for solicitors who wished to obtain indemnity insurance against claims in res-

pect of civil liability for professional negligence or breach of duty, and solicitors wanting insurance negotiated their own terms with insurers.

The Solicitors Act, 1974, made provision for a compulsory professional indemnity insurance scheme. The Council of the Law Society was empowered, with the concurrence of the Master of the Rolls, to make rules concerning indemnity and to empower the society to withhold a practising certificate from any person who did not satisfy it that he was complying with the rules.

There could be no doubt that the legislature contemplated that compliance with any relevant indemnity rules which the council might see fit to make in the proper exercise of its statutory powers should be an inescapable condition precedent to practise as a solicitor, but his Lordship accepted that the drastic nature of the sanction for non-compliance afforded grounds for concluding that the wording of the power to make indemnity rules conferred by section 37 should be construed more narrowly than broadly.

It was common ground that the council's rule-making powers were to be found in section 37 (1) (2) and (3).

On December 1, 1975, the council made the Solicitors Indemnity Rules, 1975. Rule 2 provided that

the society should take out and maintain with authorized insurers a master policy and to issue to solicitors certificates of insurance. Solicitors to whom the rules applied should pay premiums payable by them under the master policy and certificate of insurance as soon as they fell due. Since September 1, 1976, the society had regarded the scheme as having become compulsory and had required every solicitor to whom the rules applied to produce a certificate of insurance on applying for a practising certificate.

There had been suggestions on both sides that the society, in entering into an agreement for a master policy, would be doing so as an agent. In his Lordship's judgment it was reasonably clear that the intention of the makers of the rules was that the society should enter into the agreement as trustees, for persons ascertained and ascertained, to require the insurers to provide them with insurance.

It had been argued against the Law Society that the proposed master policy as envisaged by the rules did not involve the "taking out" of any insurance within the meaning of section 37(2) (b), but that his Lordship rejected. The challenge to the validity of the rules must fail.

As regards the retention by the Law Society Services Ltd of com-

mission there had been a clear majority vote in favour of the insurance scheme, and the society had understood that the proposal that it should take commission had been endorsed.

The plaintiffs had not been able to satisfy his Lordship that the society had been acting in breach of the rules, and he therefore had to consider the plaintiffs' submissions on the footing that the rules were valid but that an agent or trustee must account for profit obtained. If the society entered into the contract as trustee, then as soon as the contract had been concluded there existed a fiduciary relationship between the society and the solicitors. However, proof of a post-contract fiduciary relationship would not itself suffice to entitle the plaintiffs to invoke the equitable principle exemplified in *Phipps v Boardman* (1969) 2 AC 461.

The society had been able to conclude an advantageous arrangement relating to commission because of the negotiation of the original contract with the insurers.

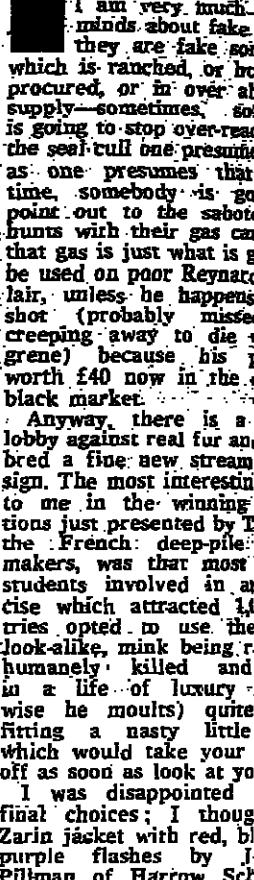
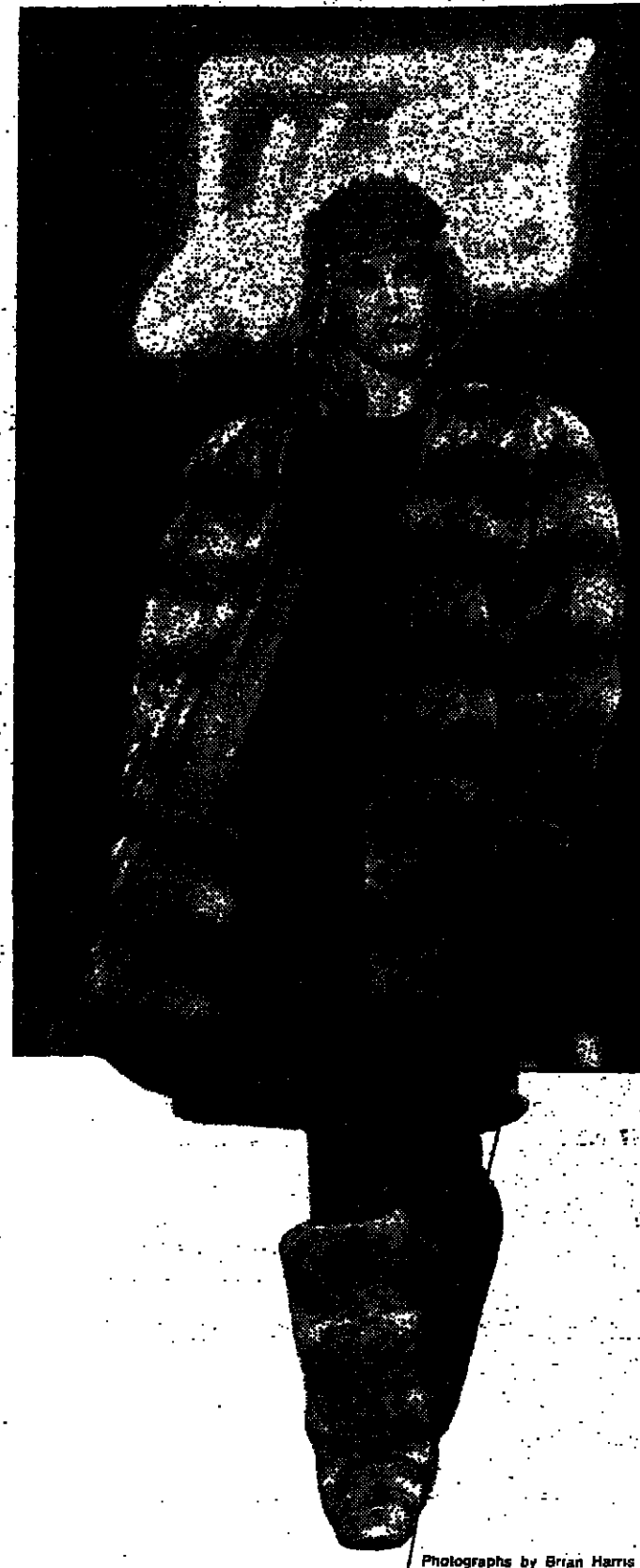
Furthermore, his Lordship saw no reason for presuming that the society would be negotiating insurance in a fiduciary capacity.

Solicitors: Lovell, Son & Field for Pethybridge, Rodmin; Slaughter & May.

Court of Appeal

## Fashion

by  
Prudence Glynn



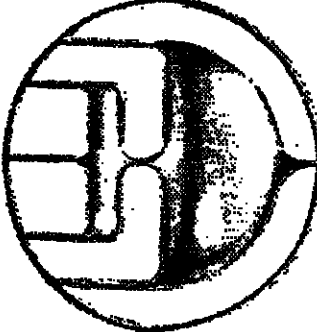
■ Above centre: Reversible coat in Caledonia and grey leather, leg warmers and hood, by Helen Carter, Newcastle Polytechnic. ■ Top left: Caledonia jacket with pink piping by Fleur Dunkerley, Leicester Polytechnic. ■ Above left: Reversible Tarare and brown gabardine coat by Pru Bowyer, Harrow School of Art. ■ Top right: Child's Zarin jacket, by Carol Horne, Derby Lonsdale College.

## Generous Malaysians



In Malaysia we have a tradition of giving. Often with gold. Mas is Malay for gold. Mas, the Airline of Malaysia, with a tradition of generous giving. Golden Service. Malaysia's gift to the travellers of the world.

mas  
A gift of Gold.  
malaysian airline system



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Synthetics are cheap, synthetics are nasty. Rayon is that stuff the chain stores make their copies of. Janet Reger undies from acrylics are those sort of woolly jersey materials. If they are in a jumper, three washes later it will not be the shape it started out, all baggy and saggy, and if it is used in that invaluable "little" day dress, three washes later that will be running up your legs and grabbing your nether regions in a lock.

Polyester, which tries to look like either silk or cotton, is more or less all right, except that if you have it in your bed-linen while it may not need ironing, oh my, how you do have to soak it even to get out the maccas shed along with the scalding tears onto the pillow. (All beauty editors tell you that your face will fall off if you do not cleanse and maybe even tone religiously before you go to bed. Why? The greatest beauty treatment is sleep and you can clean your face and moisturize it in the daytime, just as you can, if you put your mind to it. Hoover the carpet after lunch.) Synthetic jersey? Ugh. Slimy. Fake fur? Ugh. Leopard?

That leaves us with Lycra, which is the crucial element in all the new terribly tight clothes but no one has ever heard of it so it lacks any stigma. It is that stretchy elastic sort of fibre.

Exaggeration, of course. Largely untrue, of course. You only have to walk through the fabric departments of John Lewis in Oxford Street, which though not the most specialized of stores, the broadest range of really high style practical price materials to know that it is not true.

Those stands are covered with simply lovely, imaginatively displayed (very important, this) fabrics which are in very many cases synthetics—it says so on the label, and you can always trust the Partnership implicitly.

Which brings us to the crux of this piece, which is to estimate the parlous state of the British textile industry which appears to be going under faster than the Titanic and for many of the same reasons. Nothing can founder this magnificent piece of machinery save failing to observe that that dear little point of ice in the blue water is not just a happy snap for the passengers, but the tip of things to come.

We have beaten the nations of the earth in fabrics of linen, woolen and cotton," wrote a Mr. A. V. Kirwan in 1864. He was actually deploring the lack of a British answer to Bechamel sauce, since cuisine was his, if you will forgive the pun, forte. But it is interesting that in surviving the national scene he picked out our textile trade as an exemplar.

Incidentally, the linen trade was demolished by the Pope. The moment he decreed that vestments might now be made from mixed fibres—synthetics, indeed—the sanctity of the chaste, white and beautiful material, thick as a table cloth or fine as a stocking, damascened (that word comes from the swordsmith) declined. In high fashion nobody wants to look quite so crushed.

Where has it all gone wrong? We inherited a magnificent textile industry through our political generosity in granting asylum to those with the intrinsic skills of lace, or of weaving, or of sewing. We married this to the brilliance of the technology of the nineteenth century industrial revolution, and even further back than this, as Samuel Smiles pointed out in *Self Help*.

Now, all the machinery you see in the great mills abroad seems to be foreign. Indeed, nearly burst into tears when in Turkey, in an enormous plant, discovered that we are still apparently the only people who can produce (De Vos, Manchester) sensationally high speed jacquard looms. But this was several years back. No doubt we have lost that market too.

Almost all that remains of these founding fathers of the British industry are their marble busts, gathering dust in the hall. Meanwhile, thousands of jobs are being lost, looms closed, exports sliced, no one seems to be buying clothes and we should they when they are so dull, and I have a sinking feeling that when I cover the British fashion collections next week, nine tenths of the materials being used are going to be foreign. They are going to be foreign because they are more lovely, more seductive, more inducive to the customer, more delivered and cheaper.

Many of them will be synthetic, but you will be hard put to tell. But they will be foreign. In fact I imagine that most of those materials which get my Lewis are foreign, but since the Partnership has proved disinclined to tell me anything except what I owe them on my account, I cannot say.

What I can say is that the situation has to be taken in hand or we are simply not going to have a textile industry, and since we have the most expensive and extensive state funded design education system in the world, churning out hundreds of young hopefuls every year, it behooves us to make sure that we do actually have somewhere for them to go.

Beginning at the end of that paragraph, it must be said a great deal of the design education offered is incompetent. It is no doubt well intentioned, but it is just hopelessly impractical. Pretty pictures are one thing, repeats are another. Costs are something else again. I forget how often I have asked a student to tell me the market they are aiming at, and the price point, and been received with a blank stare or even, perish the thought, a tinge of shock at such a wicked capitalistic attitude.

Now, not knowing how many beans make five is quite all right if you can get backing from an imaginative, wealthy company with the resources to treasure your artistic gifts and the sympathetic management to encourage, pet, edit and then market you. The trouble is that such backing, and above all such management, are about as rare as hen's teeth. On the one hand, the most talented of our young designers either work abroad, or consign themselves to the potting shed dyeing exquisite single lengths of wondrous stuffs because they cannot bear the frustrations and the lack of recognition afforded by the huge producers. On the other hand, the huge producers are themselves the victims of the market place. That market place has, in Britain, consistently cared more for price than style, thus the chain stores dominate the production line, requiring volume, safety in design, and... price.

Once our mills were clued into this concept, it was—

very hard to reverse it. Everyone knows the times are troubled in this thing we dump in this is the design element. I wrote last week, we have a tradition in intrinsic lack of vision in design. Function is a huge advantage. It goes into the volume of bulb filaments—bulb and beauty, oh, very sust.

The man in the hot seat is without doubt Chris Hogg, newly elevated as man of Courtaulds. Alms the production of this group is made in synt (which they themselves a huge advantage. It goes into the volume of bulb filaments—bulb and beauty, oh, very sust.

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SWISS COTTON  
JERSEYS  
and all other Swiss  
FINE DRESS FABRICS  
17 Baker Street, W.1  
01-335 5275



Mr. Rafael Raasio, who was Prime Minister of Finland from 1966 to 1968 and from February 1969 to September 1972, died yesterday at the age of 76. He had been president of the Social Democratic Party from 1953 to 1975 and was a former Speaker of the Finnish Parliament. He had previously been a typographer and editor of a Social Democrat newspaper.

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# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

EXPERIENCE EXPERTISE  
AND TEAMWORK  
IN CONSTRUCTION  
**TAYLOR  
WOODROW**

### Exports top £4,000m as trade deficit falls by nearly £100m

By David Blake  
Economics Editor

Britain had a trade deficit of £226m in February, nearly £100m better than in January as the volume of exports increased. But despite the huge benefit to the balance of payments from North Sea oil, the United Kingdom still looks likely to run a deficit of around £2,000m on its current account during 1980.

February's deficit, on visible trade, was only partly covered by a surplus on invisibles which include shipping, insurance and government transactions. The latest estimate suggests a surplus on invisibles of around £30m a month, which would reduce the current account deficit for February to £176m.

In January, a £321m deficit on visible trade was reduced to a current account deficit of £271m because of a surplus on invisibles. This account has deteriorated sharply in recent years because of Britain's contributions to the EEC budget.

The latest overall figures which include exports at £4,133m, the first time they have topped £4,000m, probably understate the improvement which has been occurring in the overall trading performance. Trade in "erratic" items, such as precious stones, silver and other goods whose movement in trade is unpredictable, worsened by £265m in February. The boom in the price of silver, which is widely expected to be responsible for much of this.

If these erratic items are excluded, a reasonably cheerful picture of trade performance in recent months seems to emerge. The volume of imports excluding erratic items rose by only half a per cent in the three months to the end of February compared with the previous three months. On the other hand, the volume of exports rose by 21 per cent.

Like all economic statistics these figures have to be treated with particular caution for the period in question. During the last three months, exports of engineering goods have been buoyant as industry recovered from the effects of the long engineering strike in the autumn.

The figures are influenced by the fact that the damage caused by the engineering strike had come to an end and the steel dispute had not started to make a serious impact. Figures for March may show a less cheerful picture.

Most countries in the western world are recording large deficits because of the cost of imported oil. The latest figures underline the extent to which the United Kingdom has been cushioned from that problem, with a deficit on oil of only £52m in February.

But oil had an adverse effect on one aspect of the external position, causing the terms of trade to fall slightly in February. The higher cost of silver imports also damaged these. The unit value of imports rose more sharply than the value of exports.

In spite of the fact that the price which we receive for our exports went up less than the price we pay for our imports, the actual value of exports went up considerably more than did imports. There was a sharp increase in the volume of manufactured exports with little increase in the volume of manufactured imports in February.

Prospects for our trading performance are likely to be under conflicting pressures in the months ahead. The generally expected slowdown in the United Kingdom economy will cut back demand for imported goods, particularly since it is widely expected that the pound will be run down sharply because of high interest rates.

Importers traditionally keep quite large stocks because they cannot rely on immediate production to meet demand. The United Kingdom economy tends to cut back demand for imports quite sharply as it moves into recession, just as it increases imports at the first sign of a recovery.

But the increasing problems for industry of an overvalued pound are likely to make it more difficult to export over the year ahead and will do nothing to limit imports. Even if sterling fell sharply, it would be many months before this was reflected in an improvement in trading performance.

### Wall Street 23 points down after Carter plan

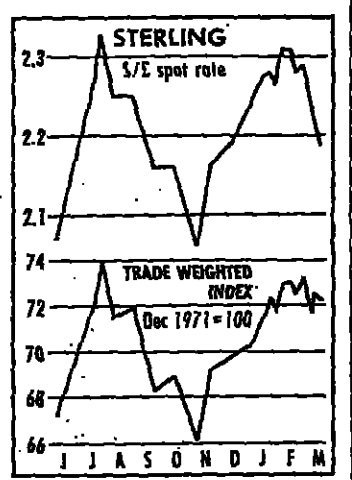
From Frank Vogl  
Washington, March 17

President Carter's new anti-inflation programme was greeted with jeers, not cheers, on Wall Street today. Share prices started to slide and the Dow Jones industrial average fell 23.04 points, the worst one-day fall since last October, and its lowest level since December 1978.

Interest rates started to move up and Morgan Guaranty Trust announced that it is raising the rate it charges securities brokers from 17½ per cent to 18½ per cent. New prime rate increases seem certain shortly.

Business economists were equally negative about the President's measures. Some experts complained the package was too weak and amounted to too little, too late. "I would go even further," Mr. Leon Taub of Chase Econometrics Associates said, and he claimed that the actions would actually add to inflation, not curb it.

Matters are not being helped by talk on Capitol Hill today of using the \$10,000m (£4,587m) energy tax increases to finance a round of income tax cuts. Such action would merely darken the prospects of a balanced budget.



How the pound reacted yesterday to President Carter's anti-inflation package.

Mr. Steve Einhorn, vice-chairman of the investment policy committee at Goldman Sachs and Company, said the market had expected a tougher package of action after all the leaks on probable measures in recent weeks. There had been expectations of some surprise measures, but "the package" contained no surprises.

Mr. Einhorn said that they were disappointed that the President did not make bigger spending cuts. "The actions will not really dampen inflationary expectations," he said. Mr. Einhorn said that the bond markets were poised for a technical rally, but he added that he was far from confident now.

He said that the new Federal Reserve measures would add to bank costs and lead to a higher prime lending rate. Short-term rates would now go at least 0.5 per cent higher than would have been the case without the new Fed actions.

Mr. Taub said that the energy tax would just add to inflationary pressures in the short term and it would have been far better if the President had made bigger spending cuts and concentrated more on action to dampen inflation this year.

Inflation would continue at a very high level for the next one or two months and the consumer price index would only start to show some improvement in May after the latest high mortgage rate rises had worked their way fully into the statistics.

SDR: The SDR against the dollar was 1.26568 and against sterling was 0.584532.

### Mr Borrie will use new powers to investigate makers' refusals to supply discount chains

By Derek Harris  
Commercial Editor

Mr Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, is mounting a fresh investigation into retail accusations of refusals to supply goods in anticipation of his increased powers when the Competition Bill becomes law later this month.

A specialist team from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) initially is to meet on Thursday Mr Tom McAuliffe, chief executive of the Argos catalogue showroom chain, which is part of BAT. They will look again at complaints by Argos, made to the OFT at the end of last year, about refusal to supply by more than 30 manufacturers and other suppliers.

Because of constraints of present resale prices legislation at the time, Mr Borrie was able to act in the case of only one supplier who subsequently offered post equipment to Argos. But the OFT has asked for a further meeting with

Argos to explore what action may be possible under the new competition legislation which will allow Mr Borrie to act on an anti-competitive practice.

Mr Borrie has been accumulating a file on manufacturers and suppliers which have allegedly been enforcing minimum pricing structures by refusing to supply discount retailers. A complaint by Tesco Stores against a British manufacturer for refusing to supply colour television sets and audio equipment is among those on the file.

After the Argos talks the OFT is expected to widen its inquiries to a number of the other retailers which have filed complaints including Tesco. They involve watches, cosmetics, bicycles, sports goods, china and glassware, photographic equipment and various household goods including some consumer electronics in the "white goods" sector.

Although the new competition

legislation widens Mr Borrie's powers to investigate and to act, the strategy behind his drafting of present initial problems for the OFT. The legislation is deliberately not specific in identifying particular practices as anti-competitive so that Mr Borrie has the greatest flexibility of action.

But this leaves Mr Borrie and his team with an often complex job of deciding in detail on specific practices, a task which will only become less difficult when a "case law" develops.

One of the factors which will have to be weighed in dealing with refusals to supply are fears by some manufacturers that if discounting goes too far the consumer may suffer because of a deterioration of after-sales service.

Traditional independent retailers which often make a main point of after-sales service could be threatened by discount trading, the manufacturers believe. Discount re-

tailers, on the other hand, have argued that they maintain an adequate after-sales service.

If the OFT decides some of the complaints indicate an anti-competitive practice, Mr Borrie could ask the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the actions of individual companies. But the threat of such action may bring some early improvement for retailers on supplies.

Although Argos has so far been offered definite supplies by only one other manufacturer—of extractor fans—it is having talks about possible supplies with 15 of the suppliers about whom complaints went to the OFT. Items involved cover consumer electronic goods and sports equipment to power tools, pottery and china and fishing equipment.

But seven watch manufacturers are still not prepared to enter into negotiations, according to Argos, although one international maker has started talks.

### Lacey talks on Lornho break down

By Bryan Appleyard

Mr Graham Lacey and Gulf Fierichon have met to discuss Mr Lacey's 19 per cent stake in Lornho.

In a brief statement last night the two sides said they had met for further discussions about Lornho. Negotiations are to continue about other possible areas of cooperation.

The announcement puts an end to weeks of speculation that a full-scale bid worth perhaps £300m for the whole of Lornho, as presently capitalized at £200m, was on the way.

On being told the news, Mr Paul Spicer, a Lornho director, said: "We guessed as much. We did not think that Lacey had the muscle and we did not think that the Arabs would come across."

News that Mr Lacey and the Kuwait-based Gulf were in talks filtered out in January. By the end of the month it looked as though the deal had been clinched with Mr Lacey looking to buy the stake via an American company.

Mr Lacey subsequently had meetings with Sheikh Nasser Sabah al Ahmed of Gulf and the Kuwaitis professed themselves satisfied with Mr Lacey's offer to raise the money for the stake, worth around £40m.

But last month delays began and it became clear that the talks were aimed at putting together a full-scale consortium bid for the whole of Lornho. Simultaneously Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, Lornho chief executive, spent £340,000 on increasing his personal stake in the company. This was followed last week by another share purchase worth £550,000 to bring his voting interest to 15 per cent.

On Friday at the annual meeting an attempt by Gulf to prevent the board creating 40 million new shares was defeated as was Gulf's bid to prevent the board from buying out 50 per cent of the Nyaschere copper mine in Rhodesia which was controlled by Mr Rowland.

The failure of the talks now raises the question of what Gulf will do with its 19 per cent holding.

Ferguson bid: Bernard Wardle, the plastics group which has recommended acceptance of the 33p a share bid from Mr Graham Lacey's Ferguson Investments, has written to the Stock Exchange requesting an investigation into dealings in the company's shares between January 25 and 29.

### Lloyd's considering Sasse compromise

By Richard Allen  
Insurance Correspondent

Lloyd's of London has suggested it might be prepared to help members of the stricken Sasse underwriting syndicates in meeting losses of over £20m.

But Mr Peter Green, the Lloyd's chairman said yesterday that the committee would be prepared to discuss a financial compromise only if legal actions started by 47 of the syndicate's 110 members were withdrawn.

Mr Green said if the plaintiffs were prepared to accept that their allegations against Lloyd's were groundless, Lloyd's might be amenable to some sort of financial compromise. He added that talks could not possibly start if litigation was continuing.

A spokesman for one of the two groups of Sasse members which are separately suing Lloyd's and disputing liabilities for syndicate losses later said that members would not even consider dropping their action on the faint promise of partial financial help. However, it is thought that all parties have become acutely aware of the huge financial costs which could ultimately be incurred as a result of the litigation.

Meanwhile, on the same day that Lloyd's filed its defence to the original court action by Sasse members, Mr Green took the unusual step of writing to all 18,500 underwriting members outlining the affair.

In his letter, he stresses that all valid claims on policies underwritten by Sasse have been or will be settled in full

whatever the outcome of litigation.

Referring to allegations that some or all the risks that led to the Sasse losses should never have been accepted if Lloyd's and other defendants had performed their duties properly, he says: "It has been alleged that Lloyd's is under a duty to select, supervise, control and regulate the underwriting agents and the conduct by them of their agencies in a proper manner. Lloyd's does not supervise the underwriting decisions of agents nor has it ever purported to do so."

"The fortunes of a member must inevitably reflect the skills and fortune of the underwriting agent he selects."

Mr Green says the claim that Lloyd's neglected its duties in the supervision of policies underwritten by members reflects a misunderstanding of the relationship between the market and its members. (Much of the Sasse litigation turns on the acceptance by the syndicate of the risks and sometimes dubious business written outside the market under a system of binding authorities, and claims by members that this should have been more closely vetted by market authorities.)

Referring to the binding authority system under which a "cover holder" can underwrite business on behalf of the Lloyd's syndicate, Mr Green says this has been market practice for at least 50 years, and forms a substantial part of Lloyd's business.

"Until these proceedings no underwriter has even thought to dispute his liability upon the basis that the practice is invalid."

### Changes at British Shipbuilders

By Peter Hill  
Industrial Editor

The Government will today announce an extension to the term of office of Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, chairman of British Shipbuilders, and the reappointment for a further period of Mr Kenneth Griffin, one of the corporation's deputy chairmen. A further announcement on the future of Mr Michael Casey, the chief executive is expected in the next few days.

There is speculation that Mr Casey, formerly under secretary in charge of shipbuilding policy who joined the state corporation on secondment from the Department of Industry, will not continue after his present contract expires in May.

A number of other civil servants have been on secondment to the state shipbuilding corporation and all have returned to the Civil Service.

The three-month extension to Sir Anthony's contract arises from the difficulty which Whitehall has had in finding a successor willing to take on the £44,000 a year job.

It is understood that Whitehall has now narrowed down the original list and a further announcement of a new full time chairman is expected before Sir Anthony's contract extension expires.

Mr Griffin, a former official of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union was one of Whitehall's union advisers before being appointed to the organizing committee for BS before nationalization. Along with Mr J. Graham Day, the present chairman and former chief executive, he was responsible for setting up the group when it came under state control.

### W German challenge on nylon yarn imports

From Peter Norman  
Brussels, March 17

West Germany intends to challenge last month's decision by the European Commission to limit imports of cheap American nylon carpet yarn into Britain. Dr Otto Lambrecht, the West German Economics Minister, is expected to raise the matter at a meeting of EEC Trade Ministers in Brussels tomorrow.

While Bonn accepts the need for controls on imports into Britain of polyester filament yarns, the German appears to believe that a contraction in the size of the British nylon carpet yarn market in recent months has exaggerated the scale of American import penetration.

Dr Lambrecht is expected to argue against the Commission's decision of February 15 which limited American imports to the average of the level of imports in the second half of 1979.

It is thought that in raising the matter tomorrow Germany wants to demonstrate that it will only go so far in sanctioning protectionist measures in the EEC. The move is being interpreted as a warning to Germany's Community partners and as a plea to the American Administration not to take steps that could start a trade war across the Atlantic.

As a result of the German move, the Commission measures protecting the British nylon carpet yarn industry will now have to be approved by a two-thirds majority in the Council of Ministers. Unless this is forthcoming in the

three months, the import restrictions will lapse.

It remains to be seen whether Germany will try to muster support from the Danish and Dutch governments to block the Commission measures or whether Dr Lambrecht will limit his intervention for the time being to demanding a new Commission study.

Viscount Davignon, EEC Commissioner for Industry, is meeting union officials in Brussels tomorrow to discuss the serious recession in the man-made fibres industry.

Mr David Warburton, national industrial officer of the General and Municipal Workers Union and secretary of the United Kingdom Chemical Unions Council, commented: "We are not satisfied that the EEC has taken enough measures to protect the fibres industry."

Our Government has been allowed to impose import quotas during 1980 but these are insufficient."

The biggest bonus for the car companies, and the reason it is attracting wide interest, is that it can be produced on machinery used to make manual gearboxes.

The key to this long-awaited "breakthrough" is a design which permits a manual gearbox to be converted to automatic with the addition of a second clutch and micro-electronic controls.

The designer, Mr Harry Webster, AP's group engineering director and former engineering chief of Austin Morris, said in London yesterday: "We have overcome the challenge that has defeated all previous attempts to produce a fully automatic version of a manual gearbox—the provision of a 'box shift' between ratios that is changing gear without wasteful closing of the throttle."

Mr Webster said extensive tests had shown the AP "box" offered 25 per cent fuel saving over other automatic gearboxes, weighed no more than present generation automatics and could be even lighter when production starts.

Mr George Fears, AP managing director and chief executive, said: "We are very excited. Every manufacturer in the world is spending large sums trying to develop automatic gearboxes for small cars which do not involve an unacceptable power loss and fuel penalty."

"We have the answer. What is more the car people can produce them themselves by buying clutches and actuating gear from us, or we are prepared to

### UK maker's drive to promote unique transmission Geared up for automatic success



Mr H. Webster: using less fuel than other automatics

talk about licensing deals. Despite the fact that the design concept is so simple, we believe that we have the patents sewn up pretty tight. The only reason we are prepared to talk today is that there are so many rumours floating around we felt we had to put the record straight."

The system was revealed to car manufacturers a month ago. Already one large American company has asked AP to vet its own drawings for a small manual gearbox so that it can make any modifications to produce manual and automatic gearboxes on the same machinery.

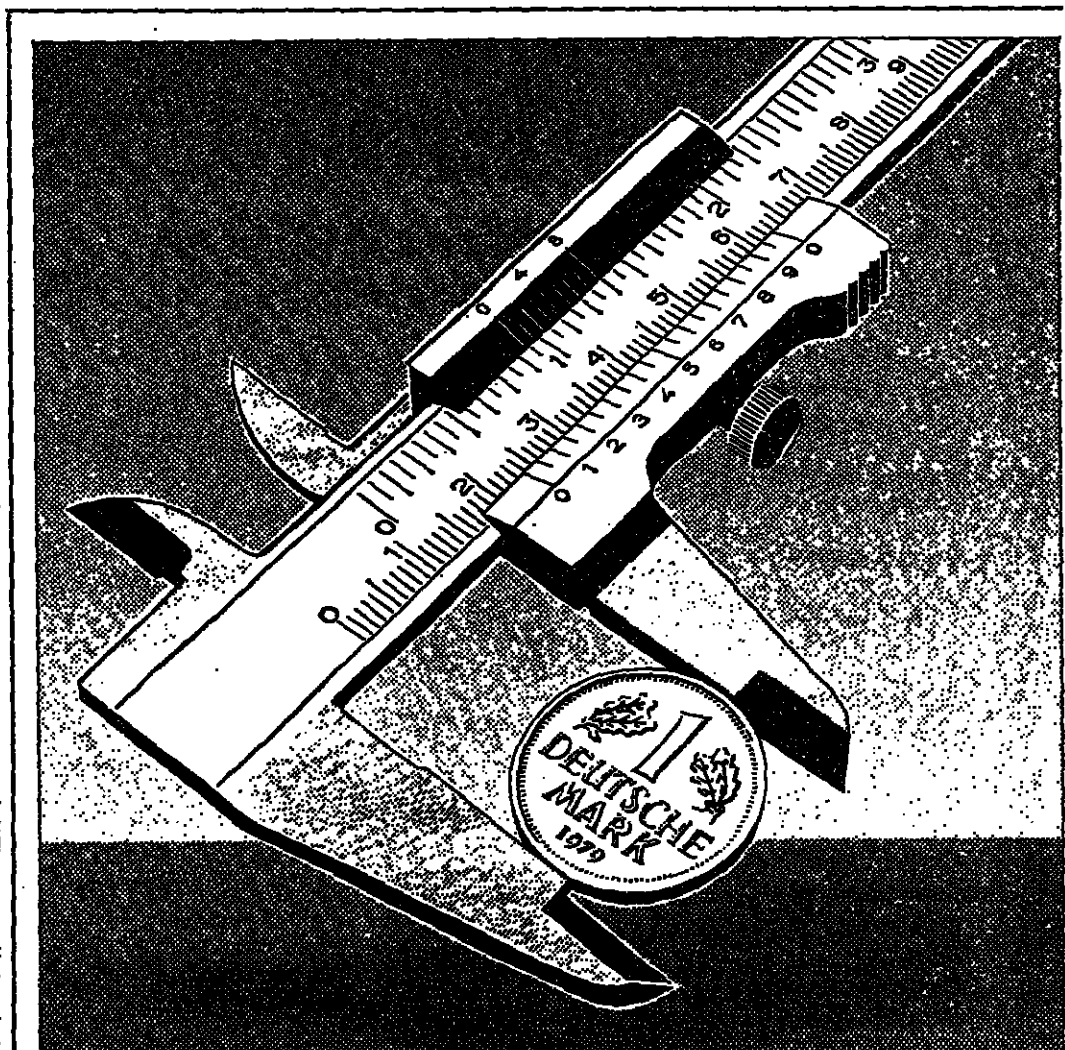
Further developments already include five- and six-speed versions which can be accommodated in the same space as four-speed gearboxes.

Despite reluctance among American drivers to switch from automatics, American car makers are being forced to make huge investments to produce manual gearboxes to meet stringent federal fuel economy targets.

If AP's claims are substantiated they could enable General Motors, Ford and Chrysler to kill two birds with one stone.

And if there are worries about the vulnerability of supplies from Leamington, AP is ready to expand capacity at its newly established United States plant.

Clifford Webb



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Stock markets  
Index 4332, down 67  
Flts 64.15, down 0.7

Gold  
50, down 2.95 cents  
72.2, down 0.1

Oil  
89.4, up 1.1

Dollar  
00, down 551

Key  
Sterling: 174.184  
Euro-S194.194  
Euro-S194.194

### BRIEF M plan British for new its

Gas is to spend £300m next two decades in new gas making heavy oil and coal natural gas when the fields begin to run.

A. Simmonds, director Midlands Research BGC, said British putting its faith in new technology. A scale plan for coal to be built at the research centre in for which design had already been

ment was also at Killingholme, Hum for a large scale to make synthetic is from oil on a site used for the manu- town gas.

### Targets endorsed ash Rail

Rail's interim financial for railway freight City businesses has been endorsed by Mr Norman, the transport minister. A contribution to the cost of the rail is £133m in 1984m in 1978. The freight business er two thirds of its cost depreciation and on.

### Pension plan

Forgrave, a Baker subsidiary which makes and yesterday announced pension plan. Work started on a £325m 3 a six-acre site leased to English Industrial Corporation at Gateshead building work is one by Wimpey.

### Import warning

Importing companies are enough to encourage development of new production to a study by the British Institute of Innovation. Innovation an essential ingredient in the health of the country, it says.

### Sales pact

Line sales agreement reached between the group, a Cheshire based specialist, and Enka, the group, for the supply of viscose rayon. Supplies to be made by the Courtaulds' plant at last month.

### Prices rise

Prices rose 2 to 5 per cent the three months to February with high ones much in demand parts of the country. A survey from the Royal Society of Chartered Surveyors.

### In debt

For Citicorp told a yesterday the American over seek compensation for over the period 1970-1979. The amount deposit at Citicorp's branch could be part payment for still owed by Iran.

### PRICE CHANGES

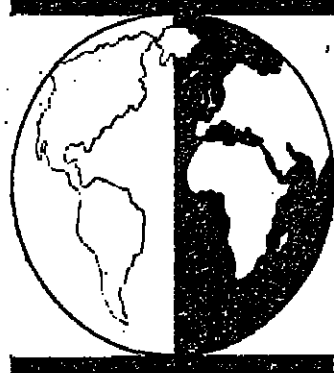
Voy Corp	3p to 10p	Manx Lines	5p to 22p
res	1p to 14p	Philips Lamps	10p to 40p
W	12p to 77p	Reliance Kuit	4p to 27p
	2p to 51p	Royal Wares	5p to 23p
	4p to 10p	Telecom	1p to 30p

Rand	25p to 367p	Nigeria Export	20p to 415p
id Fields	20p to 457p	Selection Tex	45p to 659p
Gas	25p to 70p	Gothey P. E.	15p to 445p
Cav	11p to 161p	Ultramar	22p to 484p
		W. Rand Cons	63p to 660p

### THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	sells	buys	sells
2.97	2.98	Norway Kr	11.50
30.85	25.52	Portugal Esc	112.00
70.70	67.20	South Africa Rd	1.87
2.63	2.55	Spain Ptas	152.75
Kr	13.11	Sweden Kr	4.07
Mk	8.80	Switzerland Fr	2.23
Fr	9.75	USA \$	2.17
DM	4.24	Yugoslavia Dnr	51.50
Dr	90.00		
ng \$	11.40		
Pa	1.12		
1945.00	1255.00		
Yn	569.00		
ands Gls	4.64		





## Japanese deficit cut by surge in exports

Japan's current account deficit fell to \$1,240m in February from a record \$3,374m (about £1,540m) in January. The February deficit compared with a \$290m surplus in the same month last year.

Finance Ministry officials attributed the fall in the deficit to an upsurge in exports, especially those of cars and steel products. The exports increase was attributed to the yen's downturn on the foreign exchange market.

Overall payments in February were in deficit by \$840m (£381.8m) against \$2,222m (£1m) in January and \$761m (£345.9m) in the corresponding month in 1979.

**Car output record**  
Production at Toyota Kogyo, the Japanese car manufacturer, reached a new monthly record in February, with an output of 91,527 units, 16 per cent up from January and 19.1 per cent up on the same month last year.

**Controls condemned**  
Mr Alfred Kahn, President Carter's adviser on inflation, has repeated the Administration's opposition to mandatory wage and price controls and said they "would be a serious mistake".

**Iran gas price**  
Iran is seeking a price of \$3.63 dollars a 1,000 cu ft for its gas supplies to the Soviet Union, almost five times more than the 76 cents charged under the Shah. The Russians are offering between 30 and 40 per cent less than the asking price.

**'Barter' trade trend**  
Barter-type transactions, sometimes called compensation agreements, are likely to become more important in East-West trade during the 1980s despite opposition from some unions and industry organizations in the West, according to experts at the Leipzig trade fair.

**Turkey aid**  
Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese finance minister, is reluctant to comply with a West German request to increase aid to Turkey this year. He believes aid should be increased to Pakistan and Thailand, both hit by an inflow of refugees.

## British shipowners reconsider opposition to takeover by Tung group Furness Withy and the Chinese connexion

The offer for Furness Withy by Mr C. Y. Tung a month ago set the alarm bells jangling in British shipping as nothing has for decades. After all Bovis, which bid for P & O in the mid-seventies, was, at least, British. Mr Tung is Chinese.

Furness Withy, apart from its interests in bulk carriers and North Sea oil, is one of the four partners or "grannies" in Overseas Containers, the consortium which has progressively taken over the lion's share of Britain's liner shipping in the Africa, Australasia and Far East trades.

Does it do to let a foreigner into that sort of holy of holies: the heartland of British shipping?

During a month of heart searching many who at first instinctively opposed the bid are now coming round to thinking it may be no bad thing.

Mr Tung, with 120 ships of 10 million tonnes compared with Furness Withy's 50 of one million tonnes, is well known to British owners, who respect him and his son, C. H. Tung, as shrewd and competent operators; buccaneers who can nevertheless be relied on.

As one leading United Kingdom owner closely involved said to him recently: "If it had to be anyone, CY, we'd prefer it to be you." But this particular scion of British shipping did not think it should be anyone; and CY heard his view with oriental politeness.

The Furness Withy board has clearly

overcome its doubts in recommending the raised bid. But directors primarily have the interests of shareholders and staff to consider, and both could benefit.

Because there seems little doubt that Mr Tung would instil fresh dynamism into a group that under its lively chairman, Mr Brian Shaw, is already on the upgrade after years in the doldrums, Far East shipowners, of whom Mr Tung is a leader, are currently exhibiting just the expansionist-entrepreneurial skill that our Victorian forebears did to establish these household names of British shipping in the first place.

A measure of refertilization of the parent by the offspring as it were may be fruitful. This after all is the thinking behind the BL deal with Honda.

Doubts arise over defence, employment, and the domino effect of the sale of main British shipping outlets abroad. Merchant shipping has a strong strategic value; and whatever assurances Mr Tung gives about keeping Furness Withy under the United Kingdom flag, would they hold in the event of a resale by him to someone else?

The same question applies to employment. Yet it is worth remarking that a third of Britain's fleet is already owned abroad by American, Eastern and European companies, who find the Red Ensign a very convenient flag to fly.

As for the domino effect, the Depart-

ment of Trade could, presumably, stop that where British interests were threatened, even if they were held not to be so in this case.

Particular conflict could arise in the North Atlantic, where Furness Withy's Manchester Lines is in competition with the Dart container consortium which the Tung company shares with Bibby and the Company Maritime Belge; and in the Far East trade where Tung is in Ace, a rival to OCL's trio consortium. But these can be resolved.

More to the point is South America, the one great trade area still to be containerized where Furness Withy is the OCL partner with existing trading rights. If the other OCL partners: P & O, Ocean, and British & Commonwealth, exercise their option to buy out Furness Withy on takeover, they would presumably sell on the rights too. But the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development code should keep them British.

Clearly there are a number of grounds for a possible reference to the Monopolies Commission which, following Friday's offer, is now being formally considered, and which Mr Tung says would kill the bid.

But while some United Kingdom owners still feel strongly that it should be so referred, they may by now be in a minority.

Michael Bailey

## Court bans director for five years

Mr Ian Robert Law, a former chartered accountant, was disqualified by a High Court judge yesterday from holding office as a director of a company or being involved in its management for the next five years without leave of the court.

Mr Justice Dillon imposed the maximum disqualification after hearing an application by the Official Receiver. It was the first application of its kind to the court under the 1976 Insolvency Act.

Mr Law's conduct as a director of six companies, which had been wound up as insolvent, made him unfit to be concerned in the management of a company, the judge said.

Mr Law, of Sid Abbey, Sidmouth, Devon, had opposed the application through counsel.

Mr Peter Gibson, for the Official Receiver, said the application was being made to prevent Mr Law, an undischarged bankrupt, obtaining an automatic discharge in December, 1982, the fifth anniversary of his being adjudicated bankrupt.

Mr Law was a menace to creditors, said Mr Gibson, whether in a private capacity or acting through companies. The application was to ensure that the public was protected for the maximum possible period allowed under the Act.

The companies with which Mr Law was involved were: Maxwell Associates (Executive Selection) Ltd, wound up January, 1975; Maxwell Staff Ltd, wound up December, 1976; Maxwell Industrial Staff Ltd, wound up April, 1977; Rockstar Ltd and Maxgate Heating Ltd wound up November, 1977; and Sagar Securities Ltd wound up February, 1978.

## Call for public sector to rethink research and development

The public sector is doing too much research and development in support of its purchasing decisions, according to a report published yesterday by the Government's Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (ACARD).

The council is not arguing that the total amount of R and D should be reduced, but that it should be redistributed. The public-sector purchasing organizations should rely more on their suppliers' own R and D or should contract out more R and D work to the private sector.

This conclusion follows an investigation by an ACARD working group, led by Mr D. Downs of Ricardo Consulting Engineers, into five industries where the public sector dominates the United Kingdom market for goods or services.

These industries are coal mining machinery, rail transport, road construction, water supply and treatment, and gas supply and distribution.

Four guidelines are proposed by the ACARD group:

1. The R and D necessary to explore new concepts and systems of operation, or the safe and efficient operation of existing systems, is the proper responsibility of the purchaser.

2. R and D that should lead to products or expertise marketable outside the United Kingdom public sector is the proper responsibility of the supplier, in some cases with financial support from the purchaser.

3. Where a programme supported by the public sector is capable of leading within five years to equipment or expertise which can be marketed outside the United Kingdom public sector, there should be private sector participation in planning, direction and funding of the work.

## Technology News

4. Such participation should normally extend to control, and substantial funding, if export sales and other United Kingdom sales are likely to exceed the public-sector requirement.

But a sudden transfer of R and D to the private sector would not be wise, the report states. As an interim measure R and D boards might be set up to formulate and oversee the R and D programme.

These would include representatives of both purchasers and suppliers.

Mr Downs said that at the start of the group's investigation there was a feeling that the large public-sector organizations might not be getting the best deal in their R and D; might not have the advantage of competitive bids from several outside suppliers; and, most importantly, were weakening the technical base of industry and making it more difficult for industry to compete in world markets.

"R and D for public purchasing," Advisory Council for Applied Research and Development (HMSO, £2.50).

## Competition Success

Fifty-nine of the 218 projects which were submitted for the British Microprocessor Competition have attracted the interest of the National Research Development Corporation as candidates for future NRDC investment. The organizations and individuals con-

cerned have been invited to discuss possible joint ventures with the corporation.

The competition was organized jointly by the NRDC and the National Computing Centre last September to encourage British innovation in the application of microprocessors in new products, processes and services. Yesterday the winners were presented with their awards in London by Sir Keith Joseph.

Four criteria were used in judging the competition: degree of novelty, potential commercial value, technical and commercial possibility and standard of documentation. Two main categories covered projects in working-model form and those on paper; and a special prize was awarded to a school project.

The six prize-winners—representing six different categories. They are a small firm, subsidiary of a large company, a common-ownership company, a university team, private individual and a school.

The winner of the first prize of £10,000 for the best invention incorporating a microprocessor and demonstrated as a working model was Sinar Agritech of Egham, Surrey, for an automatic moisture meter for grain, seed, rice and other crops. This, the judges said, was "a brilliant combination of inventive genius and hard-headed practicality".

Three aspects of the design were judged to be particularly impressive: ingenuity in the weighing and water-content measurement; efficiency in compressing the calibration data for different crops into a single microcircuit; and simplicity in the method of operating the device. Worldwide market prospects are believed to be excellent.

Second prize in this category went to a team from the mechanical engineering department of University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, for an interactive programming system for numerically controlled lathes. Here the main benefit is that skilled machinists can use their knowledge while the microprocessor takes the drudgery out of routine metal machining operations.

The programming is done by the machinist and not by specialist computer programmers, drawing on pre-programmed data to handle the main variables. Inventions such as this one could "invigorate Britain's struggling machine tool industry", the judges said.

Third prize for working models went to Grundy Terminals for the company's "True-stock" stock control system. The main novelty here is the simple method of using the system: parts are identified simply by pointing a light pen at the appropriate part of an overlay drawing.

In the second category, for paper projects, the winner was MDB Electronics (UK) of Deptford, London, for a portable electrocardiograph machine. Second was Mr C. Cross of Twickenham for an electronic aid for people with speech handicaps.

The special prize for a school project showing both inventive flair and a good understanding of microprocessors was awarded to Graeme Harker and Anthony McKay of the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, for a microprocessor-controlled theatre lighting system.

**Underwater venture**  
A British centre for underwater technology is to be set up jointly by Houlder Offshore, offshore service and rig management company, and Comex, the French group which provides diving services and underwater equipment.

In a £6m deal Houlder Offshore, a member of the Furness Withy group, has acquired a 50 per cent interest in Comex Diving, and has increased its holding from 2 per cent to 16 per cent in the parent Comex SA company.

The two companies have already worked in close association over a number of years in the North Sea. The strengthened partnership should give a strong marketing base to Houlder.

The Far East founded on the French company's activities in Indonesia, China and the Soviet Union.

Kenneth Owen and Bill Johnstone

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Inflation accounting and the test of industrial realism

From Mr A. J. Merrett and Mr Allen Sykes

Sir, In his March 10 article Geoffrey Whittington criticizes other participants in the inflation accounting debate for failing either to give clear definitions or to reveal their implicit assumptions. Regrettably his article primarily demonstrates that he has not read our original article or first letter (February 25) at all carefully, and is himself guilty of what he imputes to others. He takes no notice of the careful distinctions we have made and imputes to us views we do not hold.

Further in no sense is he a supporter of ED 24 but rather of an enhanced CPP method. Our second letter, published simultaneously with his article answers at least one of his points (the automatic allowance for gearing) but the remainder require a reply.

The first point to note is that he virtually ignores our basic distinction between productive and investment assets. This is shown most clearly in his use of house ownership as an example rather than an industrial productive asset. Yet a house is not a satisfactory example of a productive asset. It is primarily an investment asset and so cannot be used to disprove our reasoning on productive assets. It should be obvious that a house is essentially an investment asset; it is not recommended in all personal investment advice writings, and its life usually exceeds well beyond that of its owners.

Further, unlike most productive assets it has a ready secondary market and resale values almost equal replacement costs. If we were to live forever, however, and so would always need at least a minimum sized house, such a house would be a productive asset, and rise in its resale value would typically be of little use to us and certainly not a realistic part of our income since we all have to continue to live somewhere. Given, however, that most of us own houses temporarily (certainly larger family houses which we usually sell on retirement for a smaller one) it is clear that most houses are primarily investment assets.

It is because we do not share the view that rises in replacement costs on productive assets are welcome events, as they would be if they were investment assets, that we do take a gloomier view of the current prospects for much of British industry than Mr Whittington and ED 24 proponents. As our article pointed out, the stock market is increasingly suffering from a view that average industrial companies are trading at under a third of the replacement costs of their assets, a huge and ominous discrepancy. In other words the stock market does not reflect the value of the benefits from holding gains on productive assets, the overwhelming proportion of indus-

trial assets. If it were high as at present, whose judgment we believe the stock market correctly reflects, there could be a major improvement in the fits (requiring increased productivity, etc.) much industry will not replace its existing assets until they wear out. This is a welcome event and replacement costs would not be justified. But where replacement costs rises in productive assets cannot be passed on in full, still less earn an acceptable profit, then in these precisely defined circumstances, a false analogy Mr Whittington points out that there is no benefit from so-called "holding gains".

By definition future profits (and future cash flows) will be lower. Yet in these circumstances ED 24 will record at least the borrowed-realized proportion of holding gains as a profit—a profit presumably to be taxed, to be used for dividends, higher wages, etc. Our argument is that patently there is no such profit. A profit is only thought to exist in such circumstances because of the false analogy with investment assets (where such rises are unreservedly to be welcomed), a false analogy Mr Whittington makes in common with ED 24 proponents.

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By definition future profits (and future cash flows) will be lower. Yet in these circumstances ED 24 will record at least the borrowed-realized proportion of holding gains as a profit—a profit presumably to be taxed, to be used for dividends, higher wages, etc. Our argument is that patently there is no such profit. A profit is only thought to exist in such circumstances because of the false analogy with investment assets (where such rises are unreservedly to be welcomed), a false analogy Mr Whittington makes in common with ED 24 proponents.

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## The correct diagnosis for engineers

From Sir Reginald H. Murle

Sir, May I attempt to rectify the seeming lack of alleged by Professor (March 7), in the Flowers and reports.

I recently attended of the Parliamentary Committee when Mr Whittington talked report, and I have part in several discussions engineers and rep of other professions would seem that organization to register engineers, and engineering education analogous to the General Council related and the professions concerned.

It would seem engineering, such a I do much to confirm and to ensure that recognition of chartered engineers within our society in no way damaging functions and aspirations existing engineering if I am not qualified Fintiston's advocacy body's additional res for the planning and engineering in though I must confess reservations about a dependent on the G and the long-suffering naver.

Yours faithfully, REGINALD MURLE, The Royal College of Engineers, 25-27 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PN, March 10.

## Free market

From Professor F. A. Sir, Sir Eric Roll made Milton Friedman (Mar having said that "the Western civilization has free markets, but the Eastern civilization has a free market."

Friedman had said what he clearly meant: the whole of Western civilization rests on free markets, and the Eastern civilization rests on a free market. Yours faithfully, F. A. HAYEK, Uchstrasse 27, D-7800 Freiburg, March 7.

## Disputes threat to nuclear power

From Mr Frank Pilkington

Sir, The Government's present energy policy takes into account the instability of the oil producing countries and the position of the miners. But in deciding to embark on a programme of 10 nuclear stations over the next decade it seems to be placing its head firmly in the lion's mouth. Both during the final stages of nuclear plant construction and during operation, the vast sums of capital involved (over one billion pounds for a Pressurized Water Reactor) are severely endangered by the possibility of industrial action by a few employees.

The Central Electricity Generating Board's £560 million Isle of Grain power plant has recently been held up by the action of a mere 27 lagger in its final stages of construction. The CEBG has stated that

it wants each nuclear station completed within six to seven years. At any one time £5 billion would be invested in construction before any energy was produced. But if the Isle of Grain oil fired station's experience was to be repeated, an extra £5 billion would also be tied up, because of delays, in the construction of the entire annual capital investment in British manufacturing industry," as the *Sunday Times* recently pointed out.

Again during the present steel strike, we have seen how the withdrawal of safety work at Europe's biggest blastfurnace at Redcar was only narrowly averted. The colossal loss of investment—£110 million—that the irrevocable damage to the furnace would have caused can only be contrasted with the potency of this blackmail weapon in the hands of the few safety workers concerned.

Yours faithfully, FRANK PILKINGTON, 44 Josephine Avenue, London, SW2.

## UBAF BANK LIMITED

### Balance Sheet at 31 December 1979



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## First thoughts on the Carter package

Financial markets gave a thumbs up yesterday to President Carter's anti-inflation package. True, the profit-taking in New York after initial rises in other markets earlier in the week. But the undertone appeared firm and majority financial opinion to have been suitably impressed by the measures.

A great deal of international money was clearly moving into the dollar as the prospect of still higher United States interest rates in the short-term. Three-month rates in New York moved 18 per cent level and prime rates cent plus cannot now be far off.

One thing money will stay there is, another and rather more important, it is going to take time for the measures to work an effect on the real economy. American authorities will live in their to keep the screws turned tight for long enough.

While, starting again behaved with resilience in the short-term, it is only fractionally lower on the day than almost 1 per cent off before. A February current account deficit of 1.1, if nothing got about, was at least better in both size and than had been generally expected; a big shakeout in many (dollar) commodities can only be good for the months ahead.

It is important for the authorities at the time in which sterling interest rates are managing to hold their ground, but the pressure of rising dollar rates, which were rather firmer in late yesterday, but the authorities are well satisfied if they can 18 per cent ceiling on rates over the weeks.

It will doubtless suit the Chancellor too, as his Budget speech is now going to be rather different from the one that have been forming in his mind for the week.

Finally, the smart money has firmly in the sidelines following the details of the Carter package. Opinions differ about the impact of the proposed measures, but with short-term Eurodollar rates around six points above bond rates, there is clearly no urgency to do anything.

The LIBOR three-months rate is a point to stand at over 20 per cent, a yield on five to seven years dollar is only around 14 per cent.

One clear thing from the interest rate is that the pressure on other currencies is becoming intolerable. With the dollar as much as 50 per cent more than the Swiss franc some forecasts in rates seem on the cards. The question now is when that will come.

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It attributes this to better marketing which is gaining share from its competitors. There is another side to this coin though. Marketing, especially when it involves subsidising mortgages, as Barratt is doing with obvious success in terms of units sold, is expensive. Borrowing have been rising, taking gearing up from around 45 per cent at the end of last year to perhaps 65 per cent now, although that partly reflects cash put out for acquisitions of £6.5m which should soon make a positive return and heavy investment in industrial and commercial property projects, an area which should be producing income of around £3m by the end of next year.

Thus Barratt remains relaxed in the face of scepticism; it will aim to sell some 11,000 units this year (£5250 already sold) and acquisitions has accumulated a land bank which would ensure production at the present rate for about three years.

The difficulty for the market, of course, is that housebuilders have been seen to come and go too often before, especially ambitious ones. Has Barratt found the formula for stability even when recessions are at their fiercest?

The next 18 months will show, but meanwhile no one is prepared to take an over-optimistic view; the shares at 118p yield 14 per cent assuming the 20 per cent increase in the interim dividend is followed through with the final, and Barratt sells at around 3½ times fully taxed earnings taking top-end forecasts of a £27m profit this year. This is still a share for the brave only.

The Conservative Party is stuffed with politicians who are also farmers. When Mr Walker awarded record increases in subsidies for hill livestock last year, he was one of the beneficiaries.

In fact, all four ministers in his department are farmers. Other parliamentary colleagues who farm include Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has

been a member of the National Farmers' Union for more than 30 years. Sir William Elliott, Conservative MP for Newcastle-on-Tyne, North, and chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Agriculture, has farmed since 1939.

Mr John Spence, Conservative MP for Thirsk and Malton and a member of the Select Committee, says in *Who's Who* that he is a member of the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association.

Mr Peter Mills, Conservative MP for Devon, West, and chairman of the Parliamentary party's committee on agriculture, fisheries and food, has farmed since 1943.

It would be wrong to assume that the farming interest among Conservative politicians is confined to a declining and antiquated squirearchy. Mr Delwyn Williams, who entered the Commons for the first time last year after taking Montgomery from the Liberals, is a farmer's son.

Sir Henry Plumb, president of the National Farmers' Union from 1970 to 1979, fought the first direct elections to the European Parliament as a Conservative and is now chairman of the agriculture committee.

Mr Richard Butler, his successor as president of the NFU, is a son of Lord Butler of Saffron Walden and a brother of Mr Adam Butler, Minister of State at the Department of Industry.

It is not surprising that farmers believed that the arrival of a Conservative Government would herald a new age of prosperity and cordial relations after the dark years in which

There are employers who would like to abolish trade unions completely, and who do not think the Government's proposals to curb secondary industrial action go far enough. At the other end of the spectrum are those who want trade unions which are strong enough to make their arguments stick and who regard the proposals as a retrograde move.

In the middle are the majority who simply think that the power balance has tilted too far in the direction of trade unions, and who welcome modest legislative changes to help them redress it.

All three points of view are likely to be heard at the Confederation of British Industry tomorrow, when the grand council will agree a collective reply to the Secretary of State for Employment. Their views must be submitted by Friday.

The result of the CBI's deliberations is likely to be a fairly bland document broadly supporting the Government. But, behind the scenes, feelings are running high.

Industrialists are getting fed up coping with the backwash of disputes, like the steel strike, over which they have no control. They also resent having to stand by helplessly while their employees are coerced into actions which are not in their own best interests and are, the employers believe, against the wishes of the majority.

So far, Sir John Mervyn, the director general, and other CBI leaders have managed to keep the official responses on a cool and reasonable plane. But the resentments may bubble over tomorrow.

Concern about the new proposals falls into three main categories. First, employers are disappointed that legal immunity would continue to be given to trade unions for industrial action which involves property and customers as well as the employer.

What the proposals say is that there should continue to be no rights to bring civil proceedings against strikers who interfere with commercial contracts of "first suppliers or customers of the employer in dispute who were not themselves party to the dispute but

capable" of furthering the dispute in question and whether or not it was taken predominantly in pursuit of that dispute and not principally for some extraneous motive.

These are, of course, two of the basic tests which the Court of Appeal was developing before the recent House of Lords judgments on Express Newspapers v. MacShane and Dupont Steels and others v. Sirs and others. But some employers would like to add another which is that a trade union would have to exhaust agreed dispute procedures including the use of arbitration and to go through a secret ballot before calling industrial action. There are those, too, who would like to see this test applied before any social payments are made to strikers dependent on the law.

It also wants to give minority groups of trade unionists the statutory right to call a ballot in given circumstances in the same way that a minority of shareholders can seek an overall expression of views. The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has reservations about whether the widening of the "conscience provisions" for non-union membership or membership of any particular union could disrupt existing stable bargaining arrangements by encouraging splinter groups to defect.

The EEP's view is supported by others, particularly employers such as the nationalised industries who have had long experience of working with closed shops and who believe that the proposals would merely create opportunities for mavericks to make mischief. This group thinks it would be better

to concentrate on making agreements with unions and getting them to honour them. If nothing else, the proposals have been useful in forcing employers and their representatives to clarify their views on where they stand in relation to trade unions. It is a pity that the legislative document, against which the talks are taking place was not easier to understand. The Bill is a mass of subsections, headings, hyphens and cross-references to earlier legislation. Some clauses defy even the experts.

The most common misunderstanding is that the proposed new law will require unions to hold a ballot and obtain a 50 per cent approval before negotiating a closed shop. This may be the intention but as Mr R. C. Sansom, director of the Contractors' Plant Association, has pointed out, the actual proposed legislation does nothing of the sort. It merely provides grounds for an unfair dismissal action by an employee who has been sacked for non-compliance if such a ballot has not been held.

It cannot be much encouragement to the Government that so many industrialists, for different reasons, think that the proposals intended to help them will do more harm than good.

But industrialists realise perfectly well that the Government can only move as far as public opinion will permit. Their dilemma is whether they should present their case as "what in an ideal world they would want or whether they should stick only for what they could reasonably expect to get."

Patricia Tisdall

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Hugh Clayton

## Farming: the old alliance under strain

The love affair is over. Farmers and the Government have fallen out. The billing and cooing that lasted for most of last year has been replaced by snarling recrimination.

A Hampshire farmer said recently to Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food: "I am not getting any price incentive out of the market to expand my production. We need to use the money we would like to invest to keep our businesses ticking over. We need to use it to pay these very high rates of interest."

The exchange was interesting because he was a Conservative speaking at a meeting of Conservatives held at Newbury, Berkshire. He remembered Mr Walker at meetings of the Young Conservatives many years ago.

Mr Walker's reply gave a reminder of the special relationship between the present Government and farmers. "Last year was a bad year for lamb because of the winter," he said. "I personally decided to increase the size of my flock. I do not look with a gloomy eye at the prospects for the lamb flock in the coming years."

The Conservative Party is stuffed with politicians who are also farmers. When Mr Walker awarded record increases in subsidies for hill livestock last year, he was one of the beneficiaries.

In fact, all four ministers in his department are farmers. Other parliamentary colleagues who farm include Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, has

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Patricia Tisdall

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Mr Peter Walker (left), Minister of Agriculture, and Mr Richard Butler, President of the National Farmers' Union: "The Government must provide further resources"



their affairs were directed by Mr John Silkin.

At first the magic worked. The Conservatives gave themselves five years in their manifesto to eliminate the green pound gap which had been the pivot of farmers' complaints against the Labour government. The green pound was used in the late 1970s as a device for holding down the price of food in Britain.

In 1976 the level of farm prices in Britain was at times more than 40 per cent below that in the rest of the EEC. The strengthening of the pound in the past year and the decision of the Conservatives to devalue the green pound three times eliminated the gap not in five years, but in less than one.

The partnership between farming Conservatives in Westminster and Conservative farmers in the NFU seemed to be working. The love affair reached its height late last year when Mr Butler went to Number 10 Downing Street to see the Prime Minister and Mr Walker. He emerged glowing with optimism.

Since then the union has tabled a long list of further demands which have not yet been met. Mr Butler acknowledged at the annual meeting of the union that the Government had done much for farmers in 1979 but it added ominously: "The Govern-

ment must, by one measure or another, provide further resources."

The gulf between ministers and farmers has widened this year during the long-run-up to the EEC price-fixing for the coming 12 months. The NFU supports the claim by Coua, the EEC committee of agricultural producers' organizations, for an average rise of 7.9 per cent in Community-wide prices for foods covered by the Common Agricultural Policy.

It also wants the Government to consider awarding extra increases in Britain with what are described disparagingly as "positive monetary compensatory amounts". That is convenient mumbo-jumbo to disguise the fact that after years of campaigning for the green pound gap to be closed, farmers want it to be opened again in the opposite direction.

In other words, after campaigning for British prices to be raised to the level of the rest of the EEC, and having won the campaign, they now want them to be raised beyond the level of the rest of the Community. The NFU says that higher prices are justified in Britain because rates of interest and inflation are higher in this country than elsewhere.

The union has miscalculated. Its leaders have encouraged a belief among members that it can hit targets which the Gov-

ernment will not allow it to touch. Mr Walker dismissed the Coua claim at Newbury, saying that it was based on an out of date formula.

Mr Butler forgot when he harangued the Prime Minister and Mr Walker at Number 10 that he was addressing a grocer's daughter and a grocer's son. He forgot that the Conservative manifesto said that "our agricultural and our food industries are as important and efficient as any that we have."

The food processing industry and the grocery trade have implored Mr Walker to be seduced by farmers' claims for large price rises, saying that they will simply depress demand for food.

Mr Tim Porteus, secretary-general of the Food and Drink Industries Council, told farmers at Newbury: "Farmers all over Europe are producing non-food to be bought by importation boards and stored and never to be sold. The prices are going to go down. There is absolutely no escaping from it."

The food processing industry also has lines of communication to the Government. Sir Fortescue was a Conservative MP for almost eight years and spent time in the House of Commons under Mr Heath. Mr Butler appears to have forgotten his father's dictum that "the art of government is only the art of what is possible."

## Why employers dislike strike reform proposals



Striking steel workers picket the Port Talbot BSC plant, South Wales.

who regularly conduct a substantial part of their business with such a party."

A common view is that if the changes are to have any significant effect, immunity should be confined entirely to industrial action at the place of work. Employers argue that the proposals could block the possibility of further legislation restricting immunities solely to "primary" industrial action, even if this is seen later as something which ought to have been done.

They also argue that by recognising any degree of action at all beyond that involving the employer in dispute, as respectable and legitimate, the provisions will simply open the gates to all forms of disruption outside the place of work.

Secondly, there is concern among a strong body of employers that they should be able to take out a court injunction against unions rather than individuals and to seek recompense from union funds.

Finally, some industry representatives are proposing a third test which industrial action must satisfy before it can be regarded as in furtherance of a dispute and therefore exempt from immunity. The two tests already proposed by the Secretary of State for Employment are: whether or not action taken was "reasonably

capable" of furthering the dispute in question and whether or not it was taken predominantly in pursuit of that dispute and not principally for some extraneous motive.

These are, of course, two of the basic tests which the Court of Appeal was developing before the recent House of Lords judgments on Express Newspapers v. MacShane and Dupont Steels and others v. Sirs and others. But some employers would like to add another which is that a trade union would have to exhaust agreed dispute procedures including the use of arbitration and to go through a secret ballot before calling industrial action. There are those, too, who would like to see this test applied before any social payments are made to strikers dependent on the law.

It also wants to give minority groups of trade unionists the statutory right to call a ballot in given circumstances in the same way that a minority of shareholders can seek an overall expression of views. The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has reservations about whether the widening of the "conscience provisions" for non-union membership or membership of any particular union could disrupt existing stable bargaining arrangements by encouraging splinter groups to defect.

The EEP's view is supported by others, particularly employers such as the nationalised industries who have had long experience of working with closed shops and who believe that the proposals would merely create opportunities for mavericks to make mischief. This group thinks it would be better

would remove legal protection for employers who sacked an employee in order to appease a union, by making them liable to pay compensation.

The Engineering Employers' Federation has different reasons for objecting to the "conscience provisions". Its view is that widening the grounds for non-union membership or membership of any particular union could disrupt existing stable bargaining arrangements by encouraging splinter groups to defect.

The EEP's view is supported by others, particularly employers such as the nationalised industries who have had long experience of working with closed shops and who believe that the proposals would merely create opportunities for mavericks to make mischief. This group thinks it would be better

to concentrate on making agreements with unions and getting them to honour them. If nothing else, the proposals have been useful in forcing employers and their representatives to clarify their views on where they stand in relation to trade unions. It is a pity that the legislative document, against which the talks are taking place was not easier to understand. The Bill is a mass of subsections, headings, hyphens and cross-references to earlier legislation. Some clauses defy even the experts.

The most common misunderstanding is that the proposed new law will require unions to hold a ballot and obtain a 50 per cent approval before negotiating a closed shop. This may be the intention but as Mr R. C. Sansom, director of the Contractors' Plant Association, has pointed out, the actual proposed legislation does nothing of the sort. It merely provides grounds for an unfair dismissal action by an employee who has been sacked for non-compliance if such a ballot has not been held.

It cannot be much encouragement to the Government that so many industrialists, for different reasons, think that the proposals intended to help them will do more harm than good.

But industrialists realise perfectly well that the Government can only move as far as public opinion will permit. Their dilemma is whether they should present their case as "what in an ideal world they would want or whether they should stick only for what they could reasonably expect to get."

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

Patricia Tisdall

## Business Diary: Pouring oil on troubled ENI • Slam tomorrow

the employers of the state hydrocarbons company ENI, who have been in their Prime Minister's office since the fall of the previous government, to decide their future, know where they

Egidi, who came in as a temporary commissionaire until the end of January, confirmed as their chairman.

o Mazzanti, his predecessor, was cleared by the court of misconduct of \$114m-worth of "com-

th Petromin of Saudi

reless. Mazzanti has

ced to resign, evidently

ce to the Saudis, who

ed the deal because of

as in Italy that the



"Certainly, Prime Minister, cuts of an extra three and a half billion in central and local government expenditure by 3.15 this afternoon. Shall I repeat that, madam?"

Americans have been told in a blaze of publicity, ignited by the White House, that cuts in government services are to clamp down inflation. But as voters turn out for the presidential primaries in Illinois today they have not the foggiest about what services will suffer.

In New York and Connecticut next week, nobody will be any the wiser.

President Carter may be cack-handed about some things but he is too astute a campaigner to let voters, whose support he needs, know how hard he is about to club them over their heads. He will not, even say whether he has decided to cut

The President says budget cuts of roughly \$13,000m are on the way, but says the White House, the sums are hard ones and cannot be rushed.

Surprise, surprise—by sheer coincidence the White House plans to announce the details at the end of the month—just after the present round of primaries—around that could topple

Ernest Kennedy.

Ernest Kennedy.

● The National Enterprise Board may be much smaller than before, but that does not mean to say that it is being let out of the sight







# I. Morley NC increases its stake in Hampton

Financial Staff  
Orley Group, a private  
which produces poly-  
and converts it into  
is, is to have 375,000  
16p shares placed at  
will deal under Rule

cing, which is being  
y stockbroker, Rowe  
tended to prepare the  
eventual full listing  
share capital.

trades through two  
McGregor Plastics  
Polythene, and  
he 1980 accounts will  
the results of three  
rading by McGregor  
onths" by Rutland,  
been carried on by  
panies for the last 3  
board said that pr  
the year to  
1980, would have  
to at least £325,000  
if had been in exist  
vious 12 months.

irectors expect to  
d a total dividend of  
an 6.75p gross, made  
interim and  
dividend on March 31.  
forecast that profits  
substantially higher  
£,000.

a share. The total cost, including  
100,000 shares bought in the  
market, was about £42m.

At last night's closing price  
of 363p, 8p up on the day, the

## DCM in Aurora

The board of Dunbeath  
Combe-Marx International in  
The Netherlands has accepted  
an offer for the shares of the  
Aurora companies in Canada,  
Singapore and The Netherlands.

The share purchase has the  
approval of the DCM receiver  
in London, who was appointed  
last month when the group  
announced that it could no  
meet its liabilities under  
guarantees of the overseas com  
panies' debts.

The offer for the Aurora  
companies has been made by  
a newly formed company which  
owns the Aurora plant

chairman, Mr. Robert was a co-founder of packaging which ran a business to those of and Rutland, where chairman when it Stock Exchange listed in 1975.

**Metals stocks**

London Metal Exchange warehouses at the week (all in tonnes):

	1975	1976
Aluminium	14,325	14,675
Copper	1,025	1,075
Lead	8,900	8,950
Steel	1,675	1,625
Silver	38	36

Ship owners and insurance brokers James Fisher and Son increased pretax profits 47.5 per cent in 1979 on turnover up by 21 per cent. Profits rose from £2.25m to £3.3m and turnover from £10.6m to £12.8m. The board are proposing a one-for-one scrip issue.

## JK TRADE

g are the February trade  
seasonally adjusted and  
a balance of payments  
lower recording errors.

2m wire balance	Export 100 b.	Import 100 b.
-488	10658	11144
-423	10841	11134
-745	11017	11126
111	9548	3760
-418	2484	7402
-75	7350	3555
-362	3773	4049
-262	3679	4300
-126	4703	4259

## AS OF TRADE

wing are the unit  
ex numbers for visible  
sonally adjusted, and  
of trade index, non-  
adjusted, issued yes-  
the Department of

Export volume	(1975 = 100) Import volume	Terms of trade
123.3	118.2	105.5
123.7	129.4	107.5
121.9	116.9	135.3
121.6	111.3	104.9
124.9	118.7	105.9
124.5	118.3	103.7
110.3	121.1	106.0
136.7	131.5	106.6
111.3	122.3	109.6
124.3	132.5	137.3
132.2	133.7	109.1
119.5	131.9	107.3
133.5	129.3	107.5
132.6	126.7	107.1
127.1	121.3	105.5
137.0	128.0	105.6

## It Issues

of tobacco tax) over Government disbursements, a small net of Treasury bills, and balance had come across the western small way below target.

date of return

• in parentheses • Ex dividend.  
ender : Nil paid. a £10 paid b £30  
• paid £ 50p paid b £60 paid.

## Link Base Rates

Bank	17%	4 months	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
ys Bank	17%	2 months	17-18%	2 months	17-18%
Bank	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
olidated Crds	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
re & Co	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
Bank	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
on Mercantile	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
id Bank	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
Vestminster	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
minister	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%
ms and Glyn's	17%	1 month	17-18%	1 month	17-18%

overnight	17-18%	6 months
1 week	17-18%	9 months
1 month	17-18%	12 months
3 months	18-17%	

First Class Finance House

3 months	18%	6 months
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**M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited**  
 1 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212  
**The Over-the-Counter Market**

St Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div't	Yld Per
69	Airsprung Group	69	—	6.7	9
34	Armitage & Rhodes	34	—	3.8	11
185	Bardon Hill	238	—	13.8	5
84	Country City Pref	34	—	15.3	18
63	Deborah Ord	94	—	7.9	7
88	Frank Horsell	101	+1	12.8	13
98	Frederick Parker	98	—	16.5	15
102	George Blair	105	—	16.5	15
45	Jackson Group	68	—	7.2	6
113	James Burrough	115	—	31.3	12
142	Robert Jenkins	260	—	14.3	6
175	Torday Limited	218	—	0.8	4
162	TwinklOCK Ord	19	—	12.0	15
70	TwinklOCK 12% ULS	77	—	2.6	5
23	Unilock Holdings	47	-1	4.4	4
42	Walter Alexander	90	—	11.5	6
136	W. S. Yeates	182	—	11.5	6

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\_\_\_\_\_ prepared under provision of SSA P15.

## Wall Street

New York, March 17.—The New York Stock Exchange suffered its worst one-day fall since last October as investors gave President Carter's anti-inflation package a vote of no confidence. The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 23.04 points to 788.65, its lowest level since December, 1978.

## Silver dips below \$2

[illegible]

Yesterday's Wall Street and Canadian closing prices will appear tomorrow. Later publication is caused by the change to British Summer Time. The daylight saving time will continue until Easter. Daylight Time begins in the United States.

## DCM in Aurora sell-off

The board of Dunbe-Combe-Marx International in The Netherlands has accepted an offer for the shares of the Aurora companies in Canada, Singapore and The Netherlands. The share purchase has the approval of the DCM receiver in London, who was appointed last month when the court announced that it could not pay the liabilities under guarantees of the overseas companies' debts.

The offer for the Aurora companies has been made by a newly formed company which represents the Aurora interests primarily in Holland and Canada. Its name is not yet known and the amount it is

## Profits jump at J Fisher

By Our Financial Staff

Ship owners and insurance brokers James Fisher and Sons increased pretax profits by 47.5 per cent in 1979 on turnover up by 21 per cent.

Profits rose from \$12.5 million to \$18.5 million, with turnover from \$130 million to \$152 million. The board are proposing a one-for-one scrip issue.

The final dividend is 2.86p making a total of 5p gross compared with 1.62p.

The profit includes extraordinary items totalling £30,000 arising from surplus on disposal of fixed assets less a provision in respect of investments in associated companies.

1978 was a year after charge on borrowed money.

After tax of £124,000, compared with £64,000, the attributable profit is £3.2m against £2.2m to give earnings per share of 31.8p against 18.04p. The shares rose 7p yesterday to 318p.

## Commodities

**COPPER** was **steady**—**Afternoon**.—**Cash** wire was **offer**, a margin to: three months, **2,677.00**; **12** months, **2,685.00**; **15** months, **2,680.00**; **18** months, **2,685.00**; **24** months, **2,680.00**; **36** months, **2,685.00**; **48** months, **2,680.00**; **60** months, **2,685.00**; **72** months, **2,680.00**; **84** months, **2,685.00**; **96** months, **2,680.00**; **108** months, **2,685.00**; **120** months, **2,680.00**; **132** months, **2,685.00**; **144** months, **2,680.00**; **156** months, **2,685.00**; **168** months, **2,680.00**; **180** months, **2,685.00**; **192** months, **2,680.00**; **204** months, **2,685.00**; **216** months, **2,680.00**; **228** months, **2,685.00**; **240** months, **2,680.00**; **252** months, **2,685.00**; **264** months, **2,680.00**; **276** months, **2,685.00**; **288** months, **2,680.00**; **300** months, **2,685.00**; **312** months, **2,680.00**; **324** months, **2,685.00**; **336** months, **2,680.00**; **348** months, **2,685.00**; **360** months, **2,680.00**; **372** months, **2,685.00**; **384** months, **2,680.00**; **396** months, **2,685.00**; **408** months, **2,680.00**; **420** months, **2,685.00**; **432** months, **2,680.00**; **444** months, **2,685.00**; **456** months, **2,680.00**; **468** months, **2,685.00**; **480** months, **2,680.00**; **492** months, **2,685.00**; **504** months, **2,680.00**; **516** months, **2,685.00**; **528** months, **2,680.00**; **540** months, **2,685.00**; **552** months, **2,680.00**; **564** months, **2,685.00**; **576** months, **2,680.00**; **588** months, **2,685.00**; **600** months, **2,680.00**; **612** months, **2,685.00**; **624** months, **2,680.00**; **636** months, **2,685.00**; **648** months, **2,680.00**; **660** months, **2,685.00**; **672** months, **2,680.00**; **684** months, **2,685.00**; **696** months, **2,680.00**; **708** months, **2,685.00**; **720** months, **2,680.00**; **732** months, **2,685.00**; **744** months, **2,680.00**; **756** months, **2,685.00**; **768** months, **2,680.00**; **780** months, **2,685.00**; **792** months, **2,680.00**; **804** months, **2,685.00**; **816** months, **2,680.00**; **828** months, **2,685.00**; **840** months, **2,680.00**; **852** months, **2,685.00**; **864** months, **2,680.00**; **876** months, **2,685.00**; **888** months, **2,680.00**; **900** months, **2,685.00**; **912** months, **2,680.00**; **924** months, **2,685.00**; **936** months, **2,680.00**; **948** months, **2,685.00**; **960** months, **2,680.00**; **972** months, **2,685.00**; **984** months, **2,680.00**; **996** months, **2,685.00**; **1008** months, **2,680.00**; **1020** months, **2,685.00**; **1032** months, **2,680.00**; **1044** months, **2,685.00**; **1056** months, **2,680.00**; **1068** months, **2,685.00**; **1080** months, **2,680.00**; **1092** months, **2,685.00**; **1104** months, **2,680.00**; **1116** months, **2,685.00**; **1128** months, **2,680.00**; **1140** months, **2,685.00**; **1152** months, **2,680.00**; **1164** months, **2,685.00**; **1176** months, **2,680.00**; **1188** months, **2,685.00**; **1200** months, **2,680.00**; **1212** months, **2,685.00**; **1224** months, **2,680.00**; **1236** months, **2,685.00**; **1248** months, **2,680.00**; **1260** months, **2,685.00**; **1272** months, **2,680.00**; **1284** months, **2,685.00**; **1296** months, **2,680.00**; **1308** months, **2,685.00**; **1320** months, **2,680.00**; **1332** months, **2,685.00**; **1344** months, **2,680.00**; **1356** months, **2,685.00**; **1368** months, **2,680.00**; **1380** months, **2,685.00**; **1392** months, **2,680.00**; **1404** months, **2,685.00**; **1416** months, **2,680.00**; **1428** months, **2,685.00**; **1440** months, **2,680.00**; **1452** months, **2,685.00**; **1464** months, **2,680.00**; **1476** months, **2,685.00**; **1488** months, **2,680.00**; **1500** months, **2,685.00**; **1512** months, **2,680.00**; **1524** months, **2,685.00**; **1536** months, **2,680.00**; **1548** months, **2,685.00**; **1560** months, **2,680.00**; **1572** months, **2,685.00**; **1584** months, **2,680.00**; **1596** months, **2,685.00**; **1608** months, **2,680.00**; **1620** months, **2,685.00**; **1632** months, **2,680.00**; **1644** months, **2,685.00**; **1656** months, **2,680.00**; **1668** months, **2,685.00**; **1680** months, **2,680.00**; **1692** months, **2,685.00**; **1704** months, **2,680.00**; **1716** months, **2,685.00**; **1728** months, **2,680.00**; **1740** months, **2,685.00**; **1752** months, **2,680.00**; **1764** months, **2,685.00**; **1776** months, **2,680.00**; **1788** months, **2,685.00**; **1800** months, **2,680.00**; **1812** months, **2,685.00**; **1824** months, **2,680.00**; **1836** months, **2,685.00**; **1848** months, **2,680.00**; **1860** months, **2,685.00**; **1872** months, **2,680.00**; **1884** months, **2,68**

## Discount market

Credit conditions tightened markedly yesterday, and the Bank of England was forced to raise its large-scale assistance before books were closed. The authorities had to be ruled off at the end of the day. The authorities had to moderate the rate of Treasury bills and small quantity of local authorities bills both from houses and banks, and to raise a small quantity of bills to four or five houses at 17 per cent M.L.R. Secured bills at about 15 1/2 per cent for houses and about 16 1/2 per cent for much of the session, eased slightly to 16 1/4 per cent, closing at 16 1/2 per cent. The help was given in the following manner:

The market was up against a moderate excess of Revenue

fers to the Exchange (which included a sizeable figure in respect of tobacco tax) over Government disbursements, a small net take-up of Treasury bills, and balances that had come across the weekend a small way below target. Note that the selling fell by a small amount.

## Money Marke

**Rates**  
Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17%  
(Last changed 15.11.79)  
Clearing Banks Base Rate 17%  
Discount Mkt Lenders' Lend. 16%

Treasury Bills (Dis.)	
Buying	Selling
2 months 10 1/2	2 months
3 months 10 1/4	3 months

Prime Bank Bills (Dis.)		Trade	
2 months 12-17 1/2	3 months	3 months	4 months
3 months 17 1/4-17 1/2	4 months	4 months	6 months

[illegible]

overnight	17 1/2-17 3/4	6 months	17 1/2-17 3/4
1 week	17 1/2-17 3/4	9 months	17 1/2-17 3/4
1 month	17 1/2-17 3/4	12 months	16 1/2-16 3/4
3 months	16 1/2-16 3/4		

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate) r

3 months	16 1/2	6 months	18
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Home Rate 18 1/2

**Sterling: Other**

**Lightingale & Co. Limited**  
 on EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212  
**for the Counter Market**

Day	Price	Ch <sup>g</sup>	Gross Div <sup>d</sup>	Vid <sup>o</sup>
Group & Rhodes	69	—	6.7	9
ll	34	—	3.8	11
ly Pref	238	—	13.8	5
rsell	84	—	15.3	18
Parker	91	—	5.0	5
air	101	+1	7.9	7
Group	98	—	12.8	13
rough	102	—	16.5	15
enkins	68	—	5.2	6
limited	115	—	7.2	7
Ord	260	—	31.3	12
12% ULS	218	—	14.3	6
James	77	—	0.8	4
exander	40	—	12.0	15
ates	97	-1	2.6	5
	40	—	4.4	6
	182	—	11.5	6

under provision of SSA P15.

## Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible]







## PERSONAL CHOICE

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by David Sinclair

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: 6.40 Special Relativity: 7.05 Metals and the Electromagnetic Series: 7.20 Computing—Algorithms. Close down at 7.55.

9.35 For Schools, Colleges: 9.35 Out of the Past—Georgian England (r); 9.55 Maths-in-a-Box (Plum Crazy); 10.16 Look and Read (The Boy from Space); 10.38 Resonance Units 11-13 (English); 11.00 Watch—Dinosaur (r); 11.17 Television Club (r); 11.38 Shakespeare in Perspective (The Tempest); 12.05 pm General Studies (r); Close down at 12.30.

12.45 News.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Nancy Kimmey continues her series on the expression of anxiety. I wonder, then, how predictable and that he can't opt out when it is good for us to laugh at the disasters which are in the news, and the final snap is both a relief and a warning. The BBC has a lot of striking gold in its comedy series, and it is a pity that the BBC has not made more of it. (See Peter Wood's review of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" in the "Personal Choice" column.)

1.45 Trumpton: Paper Series (r). 2.00 You and Me: The Surprise Friend (r).

2.14 For Schools, Colleges: 2.14 Encounter: Germany (r); 2.16 Home Economics (r). Close down at 3.00.

3.25 Debrau Siard: Learning Welsh.

3.25 Play School: The story is Alvin Tresselt's It's Time Now! 4.30 Yogi Bear: Cartoon (r).

## BBC 2

7.05 am Open University: Coal and the 19th Century; 7.30 Frank Lloyd Wright. Close down at 7.55.

11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1 at 11.00.

4.50 pm Open University: Maths—Orthogonal Bases; 5.15 The Nature of Digital Computing; 5.40 Maths—Orthogonal Bases; 6.05 Reading: The Nature of Digital Computing; 6.30 Spreading the Word; 6.55 Who's a Clever Boy? Strictly for the birds, this one, featuring a man and a budgie. 7.05 News with subtitles for the hard of hearing.

7.20 Europeans: Eric Robinson compares education in Britain with the system in France and Denmark.

## THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: 9.30 Experiment: Biology (The Donkey); 9.47 Seeing and Doing (Fur and Feather); 10.16 Work: Industrial Relations; 10.35 The English Past; 11.00 Leapfrog (maths for the seven to nine); 11.22 Good Health; 11.39 The Land (The Valley).

12.00 Paperplay: Houseboats and Bridges, part 2. With Susan Stranks.

12.10 pm Pipkins: Quiet Please.

12.30 The Sullivan.

1.00 News with Peter Sissons.

1.30 Thames News: Jimmy Blair seeks Alan McIntyre's backing for a business he wants to start.

2.00 After Noon Plus: Dustin Hoffman and young Justin Henry. Kramer, talk about the making of the movie. Quite a catch from the two. Also, a song from Justin Henry's Williams.

2.45 Wide Alliance: Affray in Amsterdam. Diane Keen pops in this story of chivalry among the casals.

## ITV

4.35 Jackanory: Paul Copley continues The Runaway.

4.40 Lassie: New series of dramas featuring the dog that's been loved by children for generations.

5.05 John Craven's Newsround.

5.05 Renegade: Episode 4.

5.35 Paddington: Animated bear (r).

5.40 News with Peter Wood.

5.55 Nationwide: It's the night we've all been waiting for—the final of "The Most Glamorous Grandmother in Great Britain" contest. Judges are Carol Channing, Liza Goddard and Frankie Howerd.

6.55 Droopy: Cartoon.

7.05 One More Time! The television version of Sing Something Simple. Makes the living room like the public bar of a Saturday night (r).

7.35 Life on Earth: The First Forest. David Attenborough explains how primitive animals came to terms with life on land and how flowers came into the picture. This really is a splendid programme.

8.30 Time of My Life: New comedy series about a man who loses his job and his wife, that's funny (see Peter Wood's review).

9.00 News with Peter Wood.

## ITV

mark. All part of the great European ideal, no doubt.

8.00 Change of Direction: Jerry Rawlings. He was a first place in the Ghanaian air force, then he was head of state, now he has been kicked out of both jobs. Some change.

8.30 Writers and Places: Frederic Raphael (for Glittering Prizes) recalls, naturally enough, his days at Cambridge.

9.00 Not the Least of Not the Nine O'Clock News: Repeat of the word "redundant"—shows highlights a certain-ranker to a new series. I think never caught on, did it. I think once I prefer the Nine O'Clock News.

9.35 Yesterday's Witness in

## ITV

3.45 Three Little Words: World.

4.15 Pop Gospel.

4.45 Mapple.

5.15 Emerald Farm: Can Joe Suggen really go to America?

5.45 News.

6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner.

6.35 Help! with Joan Shepton.

6.55 Crossroads: Miranda Pollard and John Harvey have something to say to each other about Adam Chance.

7.00 Charlie's Angels: What more can the Armchair Thriller: Episode 3 of High Tide. Interesting to compare this with the work of the old masters in the genre. The new series is reaching its climax on BBC 1 on Fridays.

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9.00 Hollywood: Trick of the Light. How an early cameraman achieved their astonishing effects.

10.00 News.

10.30 The Burglars: Omar Sharif, Jean-Paul Belmondo and Dyan Cannon (for the second night running) in a glossy 1970 thriller about a few gangsters and the police. How can we intend to outwit them and grab the swag for himself. It's no Riff.

12.25 am News: Leslie Crowther reads William Owen's poem Anthem for Doomed Youth.

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## Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.

6.10 am News.

7.00 Today.

7.30 News.

8.00 News.

8.30 News.

8.55 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Tuesday Call.

10.00 News.

10.05 in Britain Now.

10.10 Daily Service.

10.45 Once Upon an Ice Age (2).

11.00 News.

11.05 Play: Total Security.

11.35 Local Edition.

12.00 News.

12.02 pm Your Yours.

12.20 pm Your Yours.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.10 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

3.00 News.

3.02 Listen with Mother.

3.15 Women in Love (3).

4.00 Bookshelf.

4.45 Story: Run for the Money.

5.00 PM.

5.55 Weather.

6.00 News.

6.30 A Touch of Thurbur.

7.00 News.

7.05 The Archers.

7.20 The Restless Years (9).

8.05 In Touch.

8.30 Choirs of Wales (3).

1.15 Form Our Own Correspondent.

9.30 Kaleidoscope.

10.00 The World at Night.

10.30 The Hornblower Story.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime.

11.15 Children's Hour.

11.30 Today in Parliament.

12.00 News.

12.15 am 12.23 Weather.

VHF

5.00 am Regional news, weather.

5.30 Regional news, weather.

9.05-10.30 Schools' Music Intellec.

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